THE NEW
INDIAN EXPRESS

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NEW E-COMMERCE RULES TO IMPROVE ONLINE SHOPPING

The Centre on Friday notified the new rules under Consumer Protection Act, 2019 to protect the rights of customers

GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL WITHIN A MONTH

As per new rules, all e-commerce platforms must have a proper consumer redressal mechanism in place. They must appoint a grievance officer to take care of complaints, and display his/her name and contact details on their websites. Once a consumer files a complaint, a receipt has to be issued within 48 hours, and a suitable action must be taken in a month P12

NO CANCELLATION CHARGES

- To facilitate easy return of products, e-tailers must display detailed information on return/exchange processes as well as details of sellers, including their contact numbers and addresses
- E-tailers must not levy any cancellation charges from customers, unless they also bear charges for cancellations initiated by them

$200 bn

WILL BE SIZE OF INDIA'S E-COMMERCE MARKET BY 2027: STATISTA

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Gehlot moves focus from HC relief to Pilot

Parades his MLAs at Raj Bhawan, demands immediate Assembly session for floor test

RAJESH ASNANI & RICHA SHARMA @ Jaipur/New Delhi

THE political showdown in Rajasthan shifted to Raj Bhawan on Friday with Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot demanding that Governor Kalraj Mishra call the Assembly session immediately for a confidence vote. By extension, Gehlot wants to smoke out the rebellion of 19 party lawmakers led by Sachin Pilot, shutting out all escape routes from disqualification, as the whip comes into play in the Assembly.

Confident about his numbers, Gehlot pressured the Governor to convene the House and brought in busloads of MLAs to stage a dharna at Raj Bhawan. The dharna ended around 8 pm after the Governor assured he will act on the request but wanted some points clarified. The state Cabinet later met to address the queries. One of the points in Mishra's note was why the government wanted the session when it says it has a majority. He also wanted to know the agenda and said Gehlot's letter on Thursday did not indicate the state Cabinet's approval to the request.

"With an open heart, the Governor said he will abide by the Constitution without pressure and ill-will. He said that he has sent some directives to the CM and if he gets a satisfactory response, he will be bound by Article 174 of the Constitution to call the session. We have full faith in him," said Congress spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala.

The nice words were in sharp contrast to the drama earlier in the day, when Gehlot accused the Governor of sitting on his request, perhaps due to pressure from the top. Alleging a BJP conspiracy behind the delay, he asserted, "We wrote to him yesterday requesting early convening of the session and waited all night, but there was no response. It is beyond comprehension what kind of forces would compel the Governor to delay such a simple process."

Gehlot went on to say, "The entire state is with us. People are with us. If the masses surround the Raj Bhawan in protest, we will not be responsible," drawing a sharp response from the BJP.

Earlier in the day, the Rajasthan High Court asked Assembly Speaker C P Joshi to maintain status quo and not to act against the rebels till further orders.

In Delhi, Congress leader Kapil Sibal shared his anguish. "If judges of high courts are not going to follow orders laid down by five judges of the Supreme Court, then I might as well take off my robe," he remarked. P9

A video grab of Rajasthan Governor Kalraj Mishra interacting with Congress MLAs demanding an urgent Assembly session, at Raj Bhawan in Jaipur on Friday | PTI

Bound by Cabinet advice

The Governor has no option but to accept the recommendation of the chief minister to convene the Assembly session, legal experts said, adding he is duty-bound to follow the advice of the Cabinet

Poser to chief minister

"Before I could consult experts, you gave out a statement that Raj Bhavan is gheraoed. If you can't protect the Governor, then how can you protect the state?" the Governor wrote to Gehlot

Bad loans could balloon to their highest in 2 decades, warns RBI

ANURADHA SHUKLA @ New Delhi

THE economic stress induced by Covid-19 could push gross bad loans to their highest in nearly two decades, the Financial Stability Report (FSR) for July by the Reserve Bank of India revealed on Friday.

Admitting that the loan moratorium scheme has suppressed the real stress on Indian banks, RBI governor Shaktikanta Das, warned banks to remain extremely watchful and focussed in the foreword of the FSR report, which paints a very gloomy picture for the Indian banking sector, at least in the immediate future.

In a "very severe stressed scenario", the gross non-performing assets of the banking sector could rise to as high as 14.7% of total loans by March 2021, the report said after stress testing of 53 scheduled commercial banks.

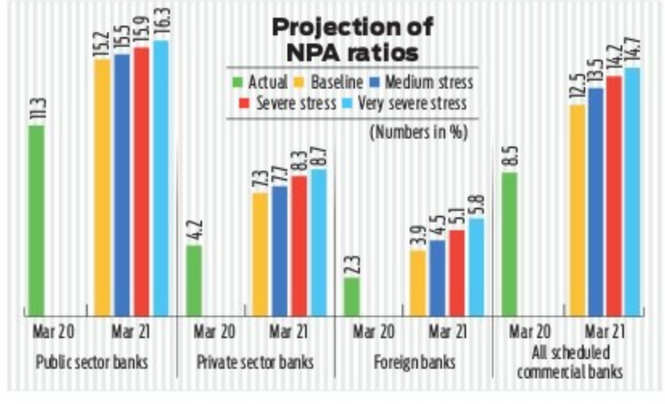
It added that even under the baseline scenario, the gross NPA ratio could rise to 12.5%. The gross NPA ratio stood at 8.5% as of March 2020. The last time it was as low was in March 2000, when the gross NPA ratio was reported at a whopping 12.7%.

As expected, the report said public sector banks are likely to be the worst hit, which could see their gross NPAs rise to 15.2% by March 2021 from 11.3% a year earlier in the baseline scenario.

The report warned that on account of the worsening macroeconomic factors, even private banks and foreign banks would see a spike in bad loans. Sectors with the highest share of "good quality loans" that might get affected, include general purpose loans by non-banking finance companies, generation of electricity, NBFCs in the housing sector and development financial institutions.

And with banks required to provide more against defaulters, the report warned of erosion of capital, saying system-level capital adequacy ratio could drop to 13.3% under the baseline scenario, and to 11.8% in very severe stress, by March 2021.

"Stress test results indicate that five banks may fail to meet the minimum capital level by March 2021 in a very severe stress scenario. This, however, does not take into account the mergers or any further recapitalisation, which will further increase systemic resilience," the RBI said, without naming the banks.



Now, house sealed, tin sheets removed later

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

A day after the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) faced embarrassment over 'sealing' of two flats with tin sheets in Domlur, a similar incident has come to light where the gates of an individual house in Vannarpet ward were sealed, only to be removed on Friday. This comes even as the BBMP officials were busy apologising to all, explaining that there was no such standard operating procedure.

The gates of the house were sealed with tin sheets by the BBMP and its contractors, leaving a four-and-half-feet gap for supply of essentials. However, with growing criticism of such measures at homes of those testing positive for Covid-19 or are in quarantine, the officials had to beat a hasty retreat.

The house sealed by the BBMP with tin sheets in Bengaluru

According to BBMP and locals, the gate was 'sealed' on the request of people staying in the same building and also the neighbours. "A PUC II student had tested positive four days ago. The gate was sealed with tapes and a poster was put up cautioning others that the family of the patient was under quarantine. But the family members allegedly refused to adhere to home quarantine norms and regularly stepped out for purchases and even taking the pet dog for walks," a BBMP official said. P2

LAC FACE-OFF

Fresh meeting of India-China Corps Commanders lined up

PUSHKAR BANAKAR AND MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

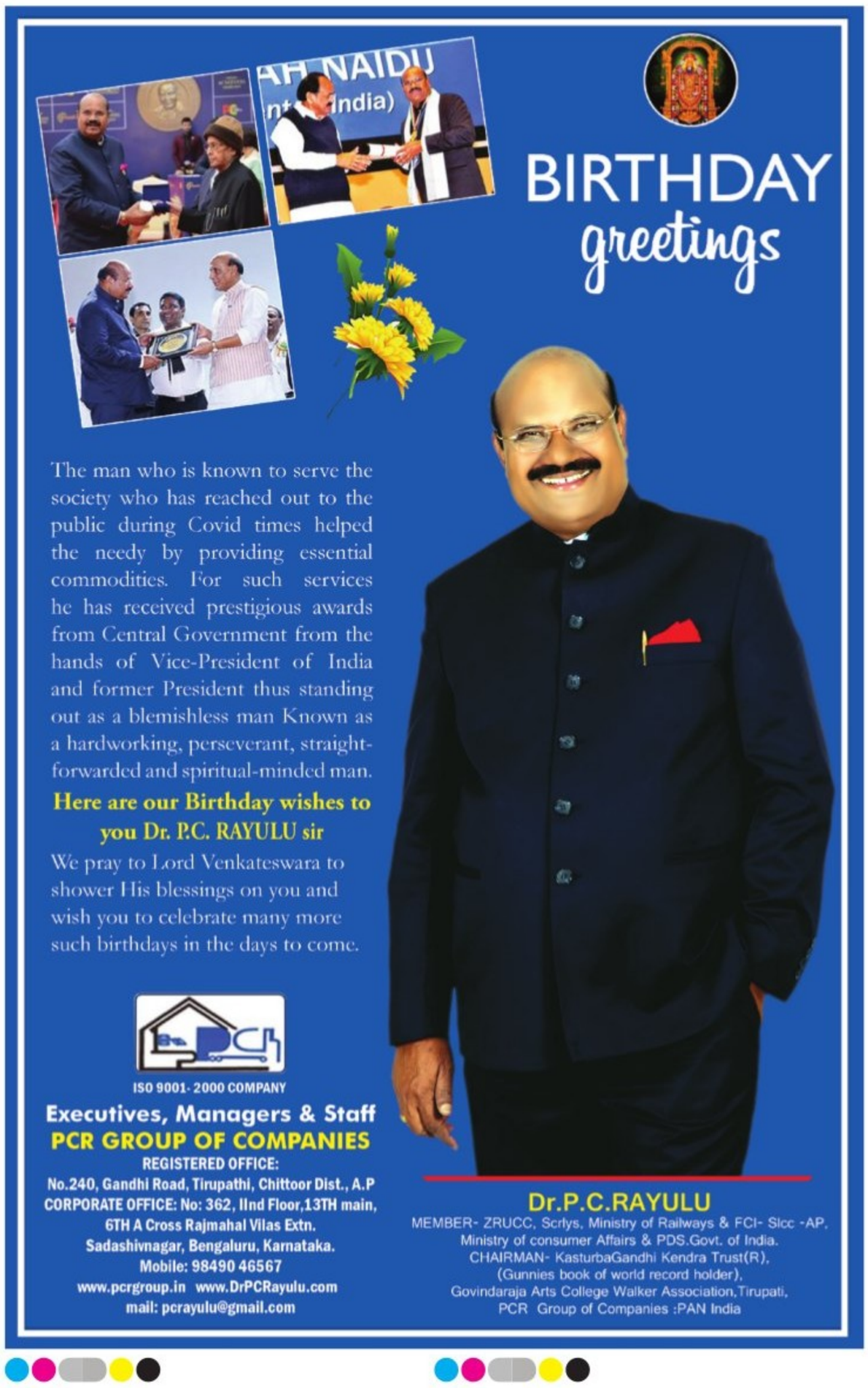
INDIA and China on Friday agreed that early and complete disengagement and de-escalation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) was essential for the smooth development of bilateral ties, and decided to hold another commander-level talks to work out the steps to achieve it.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the 17th Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) on India-China Border Affairs.

While the Ministry of External Affairs said that a meeting of senior commanders may be held, army sources said it would be at the Corps Commander level. The two sides are in discussions to finalise a date for the meeting.

A statement from the Ministry of External Affairs said, "The two sides agreed that another meeting of the senior commanders may be held soon so as to work out further steps to ensure expeditiously complete disengagement and de-escalation and restoration of peace and tranquility in the border areas."

The Indian delegation at the WMCC meeting—the third since the June 15 violent face-off—was led by Joint Secretary (East Asia) Naveen Srivastava, while the Chinese delegation was headed by Hong Liang, the Director General of the Boundary and Oceanic Department of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The two sides also agreed to maintain their ongoing engagements both at the diplomatic and military level, including through the meetings of WMCC.


BIRTHDAY
greetings
The man who is known to serve the society who has reached out to the public during Covid times helped the needy by providing essential commodities. For such services he has received prestigious awards from Central Government from the hands of Vice-President of India and former President thus standing out as a blemishless man Known as a hardworking, perseverant, straight-forwarded and spiritual-minded man.
Here are our Birthday wishes to you Dr. P.C. RAYULU sir
We pray to Lord Venkateswara to shower His blessings on you and wish you to celebrate many more such birthdays in the days to come.
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Dr.P.C.RAYULU
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Ministry of consumer Affairs & PDS.Govt. of India.
CHAIRMAN- KasturbaGandhi Kendra Trust(R),
(Gunnies book of world record holder),
Govindaraja Arts College Walker Association,Tirupati,
PCR Group of Companies :PAN India

1 YEAR OF REACHING OUT
A 4-PAGE MARKETING SUPPLEMENT WITH THIS ISSUE

CENTRE REVIEWS COVID MGMT IN KARNATAKA

Union Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba on Friday reviewed the Covid-19 management in Karnataka and eight other states that are driving the spurt of active caseload in the country. | P7

IMMUNITY BOOST

Kashayas spice up the Coronavirus fight

RAMACHANDRA V GUNARI
@ Shivamogga

WITH a vaccine for the Covid-19 pandemic still months away, households are digging into their spice boxes and brewing kashayas (a herbal concoction) to boost immunity. And with the AYUSH department, ayurvedic and even allopathic doctors suggesting that different spices be included in daily food, many are queuing up in front of ayurvedic stores and shops selling spices.

It's no surprise that there is now a sharp rise in the prices of some spices while piper, a herbal medicine used widely for respiratory problems and to clear phlegm, is unavailable in many places. While the cost of Ashwagandha powder has increased from Rs 25 to Rs 50 for 50 gm, pure turmeric now costs Rs 40-50 for 100 gm. The price of Kalonji seeds and other spices, too, is on the rise. "People who have never consumed 'kashaya' have now included it in their diet and consume it to keep their immune system at its best," say AYUSH doctors.

A shopkeeper with a spices

Ratnakar, director of Vipra Multipurpose Souharda Cooperative Society, said in the last 22 days, they have sold 228 packets (100 gm each) kashaya powder besides piper (hippali), Ashwagandha powder and root; clove, Kalonji seeds, black pepper, Jeshtamadhu, dry ginger and cardamom among others. P7

'Papad' to help fight Covid-19'

Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal has endorsed a 'papad' brand claiming that eating it will create antibodies that will help fight Covid. In a video, he vouches for the papad's corona fighting ability. P7

ALMANAC TODAY
• **Saturday** 25/07/2020 • **Year:** Sarvari • **Ayana :** Dakshinayana • **Ritu:** Varsha • **Masa:** Sravana • **Paksha:** Shukla • **Tithi:** Panchami 2:11 pm • **Nakshatra:** Utthara Phalguni 5:11 pm • Moon in Tula Rashi • **Rahukaala:** 09:00 am to 10:30am • **Gulikakala:** 06:00 am to 07:30 am • **Yamaganda:** 01:49 pm to 03:26 pm

WEATHER WATCH
MIN 21°C | MAX 27°C
FORECAST Light showers. Mostly cloudy.

Sunrise 6.03 am
Sunset 6.48 pm
Moonrise 10.17 am
Moonset 10.46 pm

Work on the Cauvery Water Supply Scheme Stage V project has restarted after a gap of three months | EXPRESS

Cauvery water project back on track after pandemic slump

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

THE Rs 5,500 crore Cauvery Water Supply Scheme Stage V project is picking up pace after the three-month lockdown. The project will augment the city's drinking water supply by 775 Million Litres of Water per Day (MLD) by March 2023.

The present 1,450 MLD of Cauvery water pumped to Bengaluru by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) does not cater to greater Bengaluru. The Stage V project will supply water to 110 villages in Mahadevapura, Dasarahalli, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Byataranyanapura and Bommanahalli, besides increasing supply to current areas.

A senior BWSSB official said that not much work could take place from April to June due to the lockdown but has begun now.

BWSSB Chairman N Jayaram told *The New Indian Express* that the project is divided into four packages split between Larsen & Tourbo, SPML Infra and Mega Engineering Private Limited. "Laying of an 80km transmission pipeline from Thoraikadanahalli to carry water, build a pumping station, two Ground Level Water Reservoirs in Bengaluru East and West, and setting up additional Treatment Plants at Hebbal, K&C Valley and Vrishabhavati Valley are part of the project," he explained.

L & T has started work, while SPML is likely to begin work on laying a 28km transmission line from Harohalli to Vajrahalli by August 15, he said. Asked about the delay, Jayaram said there were issues with the bank guarantee and performance guarantee documents submitted by SPML.

> **It is a 3-year project. So the delay can be compensated. We will try to ensure the March 2023 deadline is met. If not, it might get delayed by two-three months**
> N Jayaram, BWSSB Chairman

"We sorted it out a couple of days ago and they will start work next month," he added.

The main funder is Japanese International Cooperation Agency which will offer a Rs 4,550 crore loan to BWSSB. "JICA is ready with the funds. It funds 84% of the project while 8% will come from the BWSSB Board and the State government each," he added.

Asked if the deadline would be impacted due to delays, the Chairman said, "It is a 3-year project. So the delay can be compensated. We will try to ensure the March 2023 deadline is met. If not, it might get delayed by two-three months," he said.

ODD-EVEN FORMULA FOR CHICKPET SHOPS

Authorities also thinking of opening businesses on one side of the road on a particular day

ANUSHA RAVI @Bengaluru

BUSINESSMEN in large market hubs like Chickpet, in Bengaluru South Zone, may finally be able to open their shops, but with restrictions. Following multiple requests from traders and workers, a proposal to open shops in busy market areas on odd-even basis, or alternate-day basis, was made during a review meeting on Bengaluru South Zone Covid-19 containment measures.

Given the large number of citizens registering incorrect phone numbers while being tested, making it difficult for authorities to track them, the Chief Minister has asked for an 'OTP-based' verification system to ascertain the phone numbers of those taking a test, before collecting their swab samples.

In the absence of a phone number, testing centres will be asked to verify the identity of the person through Aadhaar or PAN card.

Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa is said to have asked officials to give permission for shops on Avenue Road, Chickpet and surrounding areas — that saw a spike in Covid-19 cases recently — to open for business. Currently, the government is mulling an alternate-day approach, where shops on the right side of the markets will be allowed to open for business on one day and those on the left the next day.

The market hub of Chickpet is back to its usual hustle and bustle on Friday | ARUNIMA A

"Shops have been allowed to open in places coming under Bengaluru Central Zone but not in Bengaluru South Zone. Traders are facing heavy losses and we are for opening up with emphasis on sanitisation and disinfection. We have assured the Chief Minister that we will ensure no new cases emerge from market hubs," said Uday Garudachar, MLA, Chickpet constituency.

Apart from emphasising increasing the number of tests, Yediyurappa reportedly asked officials to begin the process of moving asymptomatic patients to the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre facility to ease the burden on care centres and hospitals in the city.

Piling work being carried out in the South Ramp area of underground corridor

Work begins on Metro UG stations

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

WHILE work on one of the stretches of the underground corridor of Nagawara-Gottigere Line of Namma Metro's Phase-II has come to a halt after 80 employees tested Covid positive, work on the neighbouring stretches are registering progress.

Barring the Shivajinagar-Tannery Road stretch, where workers tested positive, work on three other segments of Reach-6 Line are on.

"Piling work on the 3.6 km stretch between Jayanagar Fire Station and Vellara Road Junction has commenced recently. This is the strong foundation that needs to be laid before we go in for excavation work of the stations of the underground corridor," said an official of the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited. "The objective is to ensure that the soil doesn't cave in when we excavate," he added.

Piling work has begun at South Ramp, Jayanagar fire station, Diary Circle and Lakkasandra Metro stations. Work to erect a shaft at Vellara junction is also in progress, the official said.

Meanwhile, the four tunnel boring machines imported from China, which will carry out drilling work, are being readied.

Giving details on other stretches on the Reach, another official said the contract for Package 1 running till 3.65 km has been awarded to AFCONS Infrastructure Limited.

"It involves building a South Ramp from Swagath Road Elevated Station to Vellara underground station and will cost Rs 1,526 crore. Diary Circle, Mico Industries and Langford Town are the stations coming up here."

Package 4 (4.59 km) has been awarded to ITD Cementation India Ltd (Tannery Road-Nagawara station) for Rs 1,771 crore. These two contracts were awarded recently while Package 2 (Vellara Junction-Shivajinagar) and Package 3 (Shivajinagar-Pottery Town) have been awarded to L&T Constructions Limited much earlier. They all involve design and construction of underground tunnel and stations.

The Underground Line has a deadline of 2024.

Develop UVCE on lines of IIT, says expert panel

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

A high-level expert committee has recommended complete autonomy for the University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering (UVCE) on education, finance and administration fronts to develop it on the lines of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT).

The recommendation was submitted on Friday to Deputy Chief Minister and Higher Education Minister Dr C N Ashwath Narayan, who said that the committee report will be submitted before the Cabinet for discussion.

In the 112-page report, it has recommended evolving a financial model to reduce dependency on the State Government for funds, by raising amounts through external sources.

The report states that the UVCE's financial budgeting should be made so robust that in a decade's time, the institution should have at least Rs 700 crore at its disposal.

It also recommended setting up a structure for the UVCE to autonomously decide on staff salaries, fees charged, and giving scholarships to talented students hailing from the economically weaker sections.

To ensure administrative autonomy for the UVCE, the report recommends an 11-member Governing Council with representation of three members each from the government, industries and education sector, besides two alumni from the institution.

The State Government had constituted the high-level committee to submit a report on developing the UVCE into a 'State Institute of Eminence'.

The committee submitted the report after a two-month assessment of the UVCE.

SEALING MESS

Show-cause notice issued to engineer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"BASED on requests from the tenants staying on the first and second floors of the building, and the neighbours, the gate as sealed with tin sheets. There was sufficient space inside the compound area for them to walk and relax. A gap was also maintained to ensure there was no hindrance to supplies," the official reasoned.

On Friday, based on directives from the BBMP Commissioner, the sheets were cleared and the entire street has been sealed.

Reacting to this, Mayor M Goutham Kumar told TNIE that what happened on Thursday was a mistake and regretted that a similar incident had happened in Vannarpet ward.

"I directed the joint commissioner to get it cleared immediately and a show-cause notice has been issued to the assistant engineer. It is not that BBMP is doing such a thing to teach people a lesson. These are stray incidents wherein staffers are confused about orders. Proper training has been given and the officials have been told to ensure that such incidents do not recur," he said.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

25th July : A powerful Moon adds spice to the day's proceedings. Above all, this is a day for action, and people who prefer to sit around and talk, and do tomorrow the things which should be done today, will be out of favour. If you feel lazy, don't worry. Keep your head down for a few days and your time will come.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
You could soon be ready to make your move - at last. Your stars are adopting a position which is frankly more favourable than for some weeks, and the best thing you can do is to be young-at-heart, spontaneous and ready to take off at a moment's notice.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
The Sun and the Moon have both recently come to your aid, and you should be set up for a very positive future. Today's stars put the accent on domestic affairs, so family relationships should come first, and people you live with will be hogging the limelight.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Short journeys beckon, so you may accept any invitations that take you away from home. Mind you, they're as likely to be for business as for pleasure. If you are waiting for someone to get in touch, wait no longer. Take the initiative, make the first move and never doubt yourself.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
You may feel the need to be a little more secretive than usual, yet without being deceptive or manipulative. Your romantic stars are at a height, and even the slightest change will find you feeling much more sensitive than usual. Still, it's good to be in touch with your emotions.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
This is certain to be a time of emotional ups and downs, with an emphasis on the ups. However, only determined action will shift a log-jam to do with work, or resolve deep-rooted irritations at home. First of all, though, you need to work out what partners really want.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
Dream on. Your imagination should be at its peak, which means that there could be extra worries, but that you should also emphasise all the positive angles in your life at the moment. Concentrate on the ethical issues, and raise moral standards all round.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Some sort of financial crisis is looming, so fancy footwork will be necessary if you want to avoid bad feeling and save yourself some of your hard-earned cash. If you're in the housing market, or otherwise contemplating large domestic purchases, follow a hunch.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
Watch out for emotional squalls, and be aware of the extent to which you may be responsible for any ructions. This doesn't mean that you've done anything wrong, but there may be things which you have left undone, which in their turn have left someone else high and dry.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
Your imagination may lead you a merry old dance, and feelings like resentment, jealousy, anger and the desire for revenge are lurking. However, first you should make a fair and reasonable assessment of the situation. Let the facts speak for themselves.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
Seldom have your stars looked more passionate - at least not for a month or so! Such feelings will of course have intense repercussions for your romantic affairs, but will also influence other areas of your life. Adopt a bold and colourful approach.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
You are much stronger than you think, and even apparently disastrous developments will turn out in your favour. You must pay special attention to partners who are swept by feelings they can't understand - and don't tangle with authority, either!

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
You are likely to get very concerned about ethical issues, but you're also liable to jump to conclusions and misunderstand what is really going on. Say your piece, but be a good listener. If partners know that you're giving them due attention, they'll respond in kind.

THE PHANTOM

HI AND LOIS

BEETLE BAILEY

YOU SAID YOU'D BE BACK IN "A FEW MINUTES"
AND I AM
YOU'VE BEEN GONE ALL DAY!
OBVIOUSLY, YOUR DEFINITION OF "A FEW" AND MINE ARE QUITE DIFFERENT

BLONDIE

SO...HOW WAS YOUR "LOU'S EXTREME BURGERMANIA SPECIAL"?
TRUTHFULLY, DEAR, IT TASTED EXTRA GREASY, LIKE IT WAS COOKED IN LARD, AND REALLY SPICY
I KNOW, I LOVED MINE TOO!

LOCKHORNS

"THEY'RE LIKE TWO SHIPS THAT PASS IN THE NIGHT... THE MONITOR AND THE MERRIMACK."

DENNIS THE MENACE

"DENNIS, DON'T USE YOUR HANDS." "BUT, MOM... MY FINGERS MAKE BETTER CHOPSTICKS!"

Test your number crunching skill with our unique puzzle

SU DO KU

		7			9			
	3	2						
4	8		7			3		1
			3	6			9	7
			8		1			
7	4			9	2			
6		4			5		1	3
						7	2	
			6			4		

HARD

- Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.
- Each sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing.

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

2	5	7	3	4	9	6	1	8
3	1	9	8	6	7	2	5	4
8	6	4	2	5	1	9	3	7
6	9	2	1	7	4	5	8	3
5	4	8	9	3	2	1	7	6
7	3	1	6	8	5	4	2	9
9	7	5	4	2	8	3	6	1
4	2	6	7	1	3	8	9	5
1	8	3	5	9	6	7	4	2

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

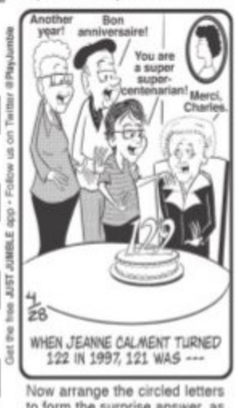
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

XDEEU

KIRHE

GJEGOR

PAULRB


Another year!
Bon anniversaire!
You are a super super-centenarian!
Merci, Charles.
WHEN JEANNE CALMENT TURNED 122 IN 1997, 121 WAS ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BURRO NUDGE WILLOW JINGLE
Answer: His steak had been cooked thoroughly, which he considered a — JOB WELL DONE

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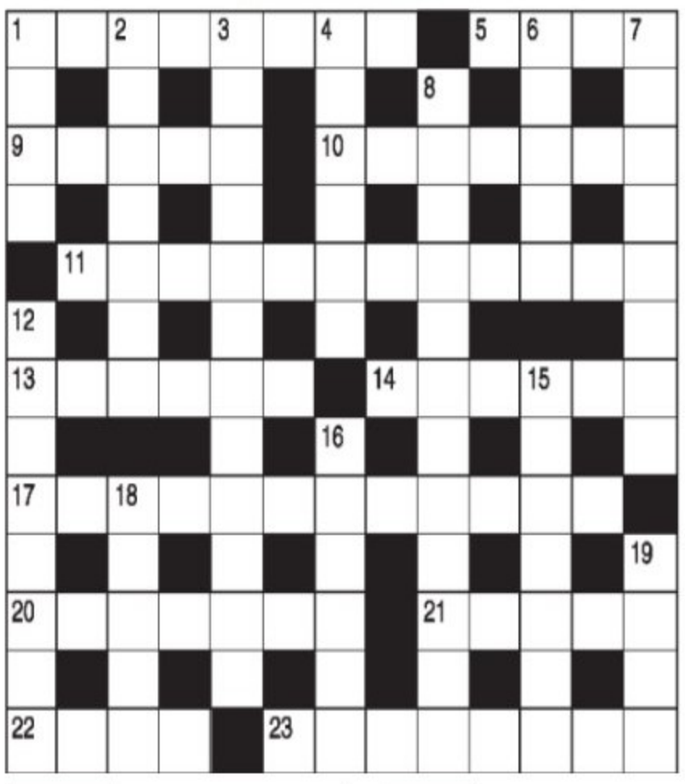
CROSS WORD



ACROSS

1 All being well, it should be empty (8)
5 and 11 Across: Harsh and fleeting reigns? (4,3,4,5)
9 Pulls back the grass (5)
10 Inspires ten others perhaps (7)
11 See 5 Across
13 Gave encores naturally (6)
14 Figure it's all round (6)
17 Fighting man audibly the worse for shouting (5,7)
20 It's essential to reform a cad and a liar (7)
21 A bad time to sell wild plums (5)
22 Thread of the story (4)
23 A way to show the emblem of the Turks (8)

DOWN

1 It may be played on the lawn in summer (4)
2 Dam loyal (7)
3 Lack of interest in contrast (12)
4 Reluctant as ever perhaps (6)
6 Leading lady of the year? (5)
7 Diana's bloomer will result in catastrophe (8)
8 Qualified corndealers? (12)
12 Hothead greatly put out by state of apathy (8)
15 Finish off the job? (7)
16 A wave that makes a wave (6)
18 Yet it may be quite a pedestrian cause (5)
19 Notice in awkward situation (4)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Panoplied, 8 Igloo, 9 Tropics, 10 Tinsel, 11 Reason, 12 Sergeant, 15 Nota bene, 18 Lead on, 20 Supple, 21 October, 22 Opera, 23 Dissenter.

Down: 2 Agree, 3 Oppose, 4 Licensee, 5 Dining, 6 All-star, 7 Pollution, 11 Round shot, 13 Re-elects, 14 Stapler, 16 Ballad, 17 Racoon, 19 Obese.

Devolve healthcare, move markets to playgrounds: George

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

AS THE number of Covid-19 positive cases continues to surge in the State capital, former minister in-charge of Bengaluru development **KJ George** has suggested a decentralized healthcare system, and shifting markets to big playgrounds to avoid crowding.

"We have to tackle it from the grass-root level. We must have all facilities, including testing, ambulances, Covid Care Centres (CCCs), Covid hospitals and war rooms in all assembly segments, and fever clinics in all wards," said the Sarvagnanagar Congress MLA.

Even markets needs to be decentralized, he said, adding that big vegetable and fruit markets that result in crowding need to be closed, and playgrounds in different parts of the city used for the purpose so that people can follow all guidelines. It has to be done in open grounds with proper arrangements, he cautioned.

The veteran Congress leader said the war-like situation requires a similar response, and everyone needs to work together to face it effectively.

"In our constituency, we are converting a choultry into a Covid Care Centre as we may not have enough beds in hospitals treating Covid patients," he said.

"The ideas are very good, but they need to be implemented. (Housing Minister) V Somanna is doing a good job by taking everyone into confidence, and Chief Minister Yediyurappa is also reviewing the situation," George said, about minister incharge of East Zone. Yediyurappa has been holding meetings with elected representatives and officials from all eight zones in the past three days.

George said people are aware of guidelines but there is a need to create more awareness in areas where people from economically weaker sections live. "Home quarantine needs to be monitored properly and CCCs must get sufficient supply of oxygen and other facilities," he added.

MAZDOOR SANGH TO DRAG GOVT TO COURT

Amendments to labour laws allow factories to shut down without govt nod, lay off workers, increase OT hours

ANUSHA RAVI @Bengaluru

LABOUR unions are up in arms against the ordinance passed by the Karnataka cabinet on Thursday, to amend the Factories Act, Industrial Disputes Act and Contract Labour Act, and have termed it "retrograde".

The Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, an affiliate of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, is also vehemently opposed to it, and started a nationwide weeklong protest on Friday to highlight woes of labourers across the country. The organisation is set to drag the BS Yediyurappa-led BJP government -- another affiliate of the Sangh – to court over the decision to defer payment of Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) from April 2020 to March 2021.

The State cabinet deemed the amendments a necessity to ensure "ease of doing business" but labour unions say it is violation of labour rights and retrograde in nature, leaving workers in the lurch during a pandemic. The ordinance allows factories or industries with less than 300 employees to shut down without government's approval, with an amendment to Section 25K of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The 'Industrial Disputes and Certain Other Laws (Karnataka Amendmendment) ordinance' increases the threshold of workers from 100, as mandated in the Industries Disputes Act, to 300.

The Mazdoor Sangh says it allows for exploitation of workers and favours industries. "Yes, it is our own government but their interests seem to be in helping industrialists and not labourers. These decisions are anti-labour and will put many out of work. How can the government take any good policy decision for labourers when the Industries and Commerce Secretary is also given charge as Labour Secretary?" said Lokesh CV, general secretary, Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, Karnataka.

The opposition, on the other hand, has questioned the need to make key decisions and reforms through an ordinance, instead of debating the same in the assembly. "We are all for development and more investments but this has become a government of ordinances. All these decisions are being taken at the behest of the Union government, especially in BJP-ruled states. The State government is undermining the legislative assembly, and it is an insult to democracy to pass ordinances without discussion and debate," said RV Deshpande, senior Congress MLA and former industries minister.

"These are retrograde decisions, which violate labour rights and allow factories to get away with firing workers, especially at a time when thousands have not been paid for months. The government has failed to support labourers. Such laws will also allow industries to show each unit as an independent factory, and lay off workers without any repercussions," said Maitreyi Krishnan, state committee member, All India Central Council of Trade Unions.

The Karnataka cabinet also amended the Contract Labour Act via an ordinance, to increase the worker threshold. "We have increased the limit on workers in units that use power from 10 to 20 and from 20 to 50 in units that do not use power," said JC Madhuswamy, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister. This will allow these factories that hire less than 20 contract workers for electrified units and less than 50 contract workers for non-electrified works to function without government nod or inspections.

GETTING THEIR DUE

MLCs to take oath, but cabinet hopefuls have a long wait

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

AS the five nominated MLCs take oath on Monday, two of them will be remembered as being instrumental in bringing this government to power, almost exactly a year ago.

CP Yogeshwar, former minister and Vokkaliga leader, was the one who sowed the seeds back in 2018, when the Congress-JDS coalition government was still in power, and had suggested the strategy to woo MLAs. He found a ready ear in BS Yediyurappa, who badly wanted to become Chief Minister again, and prove his mettle.

Adagur Vishwanath, a Kuruba, will be remembered as president of the then ruling party, the JDS, who helped the rebels reach the critical mark of 17 MLAs.

It is no secret that both Yogeshwar and Vishwanath have been longing to be ministers. But after they take oath on Monday, they have a long wait for ministry expansion.

Party insiders and reliable sources suggest that they will have to wait until October to join the ministry. . Planning may start in September, and finalising the changes, after deliberations and discussions, may happen only in October.

They suggest that it may not be a simple expansion because there are only three vacancies, and this may involve a reshuffle, with some ministers being dropped. Those likely to be inducted are Umesh Katti, Aravind Limbavali and S Angara. Three full-time politicians CP Yogeshwara, Adagur H Vishwanath and Bharati Shetty will take charge as MLCs.

CRIME PATROL

History-sheeter held for child pornography

Bengaluru: A history-sheeter, who was allegedly posting child pornography on Facebook, has been arrested by the sleuths of the Central Crime Branch. (CCB) The accused has been identified as Manjunath alias Koli Manja (28), a resident of Vittal Nagar in Chamrajpet. Police said the central agencies which monitor sexual offences on children had sent details of the case to Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and based on the IP address of the user, a case was registered in the West division's CEN police station. CCB authorities arrested him. **ENS**

HC notice to State on amendments to Act

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE Karnataka High Court on Friday issued notice to the state government, on a PIL questioning the validity of an ordinance passed to bring amendments to the provisions of Karnataka Regulation of Stone Crushers Act, 2011, allegedly to aid and support the mining and crusher lobby.

Hearing the petition filed by R Anjaneya Reddy, a division bench of Chief Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka and Justice H P Sandesh issued notice to the Chief Secretary; Secretary, Department of Law and Parliamentary Affairs; and Principal Secretary, Department of Mines and Geology.

Contending that the Karnataka Regulation of Stone Crushers (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020, and subsequent amendments were against constitutional principles and doctrine of public trust, the petitioner stated that they were brought in violation of Article 14 and 19(1)(g) of the Constitution.

He alleged the government misused the Governor's ordinance-making power, and thereby, violated Article 214 to protect private individuals' interest, rather than protecting the environment.

'States should alert before releasing water from reservoirs'

The Karnataka High Court on Friday directed the National Executive Committee (NEC) under the Disaster Management Act to issue directions to the State government and authorities to inform other states immediately after they decide to release water from their reservoirs or dams. A division bench of Chief Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka and Justice HP Sandesh passed the order after hearing a PIL filed by A Mallikarjuna, a resident of Tumakuru district. The bench said timely information can help affected states take measures for mitigation and preparedness. In the order, the bench stated that in the past, when Maharashtra released water from its reservoirs, it resulted in floods in Karnataka which created a disaster within the meaning of Clause (d) of Section 2 of the said Act of 2005. A clause of the Disaster Management Act gives power to the NEC to issue such directions to authorities and governments in response to any threatening disaster situation, the bench added. **ENS**

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ
(An Organisation of the Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India)
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad – 500 030.

Career Opportunity for Qualified Professionals under a Project for Model GP Clusters across India

National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), Hyderabad, an autonomous national Institution under the Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India, is implementing a Project for Model Gram Panchayat Clusters across India over next 2 years. For this, NIRDPR invites online applications from eligible candidates for contractual engagement of **10 State Programme Coordinators, 250 Young Fellows and 250 Cluster Level Resource Persons** to work in the Project. For Job Profiles & other details, please **visit http://career.nirdpr.in/.**

Last date for receipt of online applications : **10.08.2020**

Advt. No.14/2020
(No.NIRDPR/CPRDP&SSD/MoPR-RGSA-ModelGPClusters/2020-22) **Sd/- Assistant Registrar (E)**

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Raipur
Tatibandh, G.E. Road, Raipur, C.G.- 492099

No.18/07/2020/AIIMS Raipur (Academics) Date: 25.07.2020

Ph.D. AND PDCC ADMISSION NOTIFICATION-2020

AIIMS Raipur invites on-line applications for Entrance Examinations for admissions in :-

1. Ph.D. programme July, 2020 session: Physiology (1 seat), Biochemistry (1 seat), Pathology and Lab Medicine (1 seat), Forensic Medicine and Toxicology (1 seat), Community and Family Medicine (1 seat), Orthopaedics (1 seat).

Entrance (Written Examination) : 03.09.2020 (10 AM to 11:30 AM)
Practical/ Viva : 04.09.2020 (10 A.M onwards) } At AIIMS Raipur

2. Post Doctoral Certificate Course (PDCC) July, 2020 session:

Department of Anaesthesiology: Neurosurgical Anaesthesia (3 seats), Critical Care (4 seats), Cardiac Anaesthesia (3 seats), Pain and Palliative Care (2 seats)
Department of Paediatrics: Paediatric Critical Care (4 seats), Neonatology (4 seats)
Department of Radiology: Cardiothoracic and Vascular Imaging & Interventional Radiology (2 seats)

Entrance (Written Examination) : 01.09.2020 (10 AM to 11:30 AM)
Practical/ Viva : 02.09.2020 (10 A.M onwards) } At AIIMS Raipur

For both the above courses On-line application form will be available from **27.07.2020.** Last date for submission of on-line form and payment of application fee will be **13.08.2020.** For detailed information and subsequent Corrigendum/ Addendum/Updates kindly visit AIIMS Raipur website: **www.aiimsraipur.edu.in** regularly.

-Dean (Academics)

BANGALORE UNIVERSITY
Jnana Bharathi, Bangalore - 560 056, Karnataka State

No. Aca-IV/A3/LL.B/5 Years /Hon/Adm/2020-21 Date: 24.07.2020

Notification

The last date for submission of applications to the I Semester of Five Year B.A., LL.B. (Honors Degree) Course in the University Law College, Bangalore University, Jnana Bharathi Campus, Bengaluru for the academic year 2020-21 is **extended upto 10.08.2020.** The candidates who have passed II P.U.C. / (10+2) or equivalent with not less than 45% (in the case of SC/ST 40%, OBC-42% and having income less than Rs. 8 lakhs per anum, Karnataka students only) of the total marks are eligible to apply. Maximum age for admission to General candidates is 20 years and in case of SC/ST and Foreign Nationals, it is 22 years as on last date for submission of application.

Application shall be filled-up in **online mode only** by visiting the University official **website, www.bangaloreuniversity.ac.in** or **www.ulc.bangalore.com.** Application submitted online should be downloaded and submitted along with necessary documents to the **Principal, University Law College, Jnana Bharathi Campus, Bangalore University, Bengaluru-560056** on or before **10-08-2020.** The application fee of **Rs.850/-** (GM & Others) and **Rs.550/-** (for SC/ST/Cat-I) shall be paid online only. Candidates can apply for seats both under regular and payment quota. For more details visit University website or **contact: 080-22961172/1174.**

Sd/-, REGISTRAR

STATE BANK OF INDIA
BANASWADI BRNACH

Authorised Officer's Details:
Name: **Sri.Shashank Sinha**
E-mail ID: sbi.07986@sbi.co.in
Mobile No: 9449866505
Landline No.(office):080-25456019

#12, 80ft Road, Subbanna Palya
Bengaluru-560043
Tel:080-25456019
Fax:080-25943745
Email: sbi.07986@sbi.co.in

Appendix – IV-A [See Proviso to rule 8(6)]
Sale notice for sale of immovable property

E-auction SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE ASSET UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSET AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 READ WITH PROVISO Rule 8 (6) of the security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers, that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured creditor, symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of State Bank of India, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on **28.08.2020** for recovery of **Rs. 3,44,133/-** (Rupees Three Lakhs Forty Four Thousand One Hundred and Thirty Three only) as on 16.07.2020 + interest + expenses and costs, due to State Bank of India, Secured creditor from **Sri.Shaju Merceline & Smt.Ahalya Merceline** (Borrowers). The reserve price, earnest money deposit bid increment amount and last date for receipt of EMD will be as under:-

Property No.	Reserve Price (below which the property will not be sold)	Earnest Money Deposit	Bid increment amount	Last date for receipt of EMD
1.	Rs.17,00,000/-	Rs.1,70,000/-	Rs.10,000/-	26.08.2020

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

Tender No: SBI/BANS/EA/KNR/01
Property No. 1: (Title deed holders: Sri. Shaju Merceline & Smt. Ahalya Merceline)

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No.871 in Sy.No.118 & 119 of Dandudasakodigehalli Village, Toobagere Hobli, duly converted for non- Agricultural Residential purpose by the Assistant Commissioner, Doddaballapur Sub Division vide official Order No.ALN/SRC(DB)108:97-98 dated 29.01.1998 and ALN/SRC(DB)42:98-99 dated 10.12.1998, measuring East by: 45.93 feet, West by: 39.44 feet, North by: 40.03 feet and South by: 40.19 feet (total extent of 1702 sq.feet) bearing Village Panchayath Khata No. 49/56 & 60/76 issued by the Secretary, Heggadehalli Grama Panchayath, Dandudasakodigehalli Village, Toobagere Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bengaluru District, standing in the joint names of Sri.Shaju Maceline S/o.Mendez Marceline and Smt.Ahalya Marceline W/o. Shaju Marceline and bearing vide Absolute Sale Deed No.DBP-1-03169-2007-08, CD No.DBPD123, dated 02.08.2007, SRO: Doddaballapur and bounded on East by: Plot #872, West by: Plot # 870, North by: Plot # 868 and South by: Road.

The layout formed in converted land held in Survey Nos: 128, 132,133,& 134 in Chogondanahalli Village, Survey Nos 25, 26, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43/2, 43/3, 47, 50, 51, 52, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68 & 69 in Oodanahalli Village, Survey Nos.6(part) & 7(part) in Kurubarahalli Village, Survey Nos.92, 108, 109, 111/1, 111/2, 111/3, 112, 113/1 to 113/13, 114/1, 114/2, 115, 116(part), 117, 118, 119, 120/1 to 120/4, 121, 122/1, 122/2, 123/1, 123/2, 124, 125, 126, 129(part), 130/1,130/2, 130/3a, 130/3b, 130/3c & 130/4 to 130/14 of Dandudasakodigehalli Village, Toobagere Hobli of Doddaballapur Taluk, Bengaluru District, totally extending an area of 112 acres and 06 guntas, layout now known as "CANTERBURY CASTLES'.

To the best of knowledge of the Authorised Officer, there is no encumbrance on any of the above said property. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in www.sbi.co.in and **www.tenderwizard.com/SBIEAUCTION.**

Date: 24.07.2020
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/-Authorised Officer
State Bank of India,Banaswadi Branch, Bengaluru

THE HOTEL INDUSTRIALISTS CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.,
Regd. Office: "Sahakara Sourabha", No.234, 2nd Cross, 4th Main, Chamarajapet, Bengaluru - 560 018. Phone: 080-26678329, 26612482, 41277283, E-mail: ho@hicbank.com, Website: www.hicbank.com

Tender – cum – Auction Sale Notice

AUCTION SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY UNDER SECURITISATION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002.

Whereas, the Bank has issued notice under Section 13 (2) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 and in pursuant to and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13 (4) of the Act, the Authorised Officer, **The Hotel Industrialists Co-Op Bank Ltd, Chamrajpet Bangalore** has taken possession of the mortgaged properties including those more fully described hereunder, and the Bank has decided to sell the below mentioned property under the provisions of the SARFAESI Act read with the relevant rules of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Sl. No.	Name of the Borrower	Description of Property and Boundaries & Measurement	Reserve Price and EMD	Balance Outstanding Amount to be paid to Bank	Date & Time of opening tender & place of auction
		DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY			
1.	**1) Mr. Santhosh J** S/o Joseph A **2) Mr. Joseph A** S/o Late Anthappa both are residing at No.124, St. Thomas Town, St. Anthony's Road, Kammanahalli, Bangalore-560084.	**Schedule 'A' Property: Item No.1:** All that piece and parcel of property bearing Municipal No.35, Portion of Site No.1, Old Katha No.1346, carved out of SY. No. 48, BBMP PID No.89-385-35, Ward No.89/29, situated at Anthony Road, Anthonappa Layout, Kammanahalli, Kacharakanaahalli Dhakle, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, presently comes under the Jurisdictions of BBMP, Bangalore, measuring East to West 50feet, North to South 35 feet and East to West 15feet, North to South 40 feet, in all measuring 2350 sq. ft. Bounded By: ast: Remaining portion of Site No.35 belonging to Sri. Santhosh Kumar, West: Road, North: Road, South: Property of Chowri Reddy. **Item No.2:** All that piece and parcel of property bearing Municipal No.35/1, portion of Site No.1, Old Katha No.1346, carved out of Sy. No.48, BBMP PID No.89-385-35/1, ward No. 89/29, situated at Anthony Road, Anthonappa Layout,, Kammanahalli, Kachakaranahalli Dhakale, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, presently this property comes under the Jurisdictions of BBMP, Bangalore, measuring East to West 30feet, North to South 35 feet in all measuring 1050 sq. ft. Bounded By: East: Private Property West: Remaining Portion of Site No.35, belonging to Sri. A Joseph North: Road South: Property of Chowri Reddy. **Schedule B: Property:** 276.35 Sq. ft. of undivided share, right, title and interest in the land comprised in the item No. 1 & 2 of "A" Schedule Property. **Schedule C Property: Item No.I:** A Two bedrooms Apartment bearing Flat No.201, on the First Floor having a Super built up area of 966 sq. ft. in the residential apartment building known as "BLUE VALLEY SUNSHINE" constructed on the item No.1 and 2 of "A" Schedule property, together with one reserved covered car parking space assigned in the stilt floor along with the right to use of common areas such as passages lobbies, staircase, lift and amenities contained on the item No.1 and 2 of "A" Schedule property. And apartment consisting of RCC roofed, built with solid bricks and cement plaster, Vitrified flooring panel doors and aluminum windows with other basic amenities. **Item No.II:** A Two bedrooms Apartment bearing Flat No.202, on the First Floor having a Super built up area of 1047 sq. ft. in the residential apartment building known as "BLUE VALLEY SUNSHINE" constructed on the item No.1 and 2 of "A" Schedule property, together with one reserved covered car parking space assigned in the stilt floor along with the right to use of common areas such as passages lobbies, staircase, lift and amenities contained on the item No.1 and 2 of "A" Schedule property. And apartment consisting of RCC roofed, built with solid bricks and cement plaster, Vitrified flooring panel doors and aluminum windows with other basic amenities. **Item No.III:** A Two bedrooms Apartment bearing Flat No.301, on the Second Floor having a Super built up area of 966 sq. ft. in the residential apartment building known as "BLUE VALLEY SUNSHINE" constructed on the item No.1 and 2 of "A" Schedule property, together with one reserved covered car parking space assigned in the stilt floor along with the right to use of common areas such as passages lobbies, staircase, lift and amenities contained on the item No.1 and 2 of "A" Schedule property. And apartment consisting of RCC roofed, built with solid bricks and cement plaster, Vitrified flooring panel doors and aluminum windows with other basic amenities.	Item No.1 Rs. 27,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakhs Only) EMD: Rs. 2,70,000/- (Rupees Two Lakhs Seventy Thousand only) Item No.2 Rs. 27,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakhs Only) EMD: Rs. 2,70,000/- (Rupees Two Lakhs Seventy Thousand only) Item No.3 Rs. 27,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakhs Only) EMD: Rs. 2,70,000/- (Rupees Two Lakhs Seventy Thousand only)	Rs.60,32,122/- (Rupees Sixty Lakhs Thirty Two Thousand One Hundred Twenty Two Only) as on 31/05/2020	12/08/2020 at 11.30 AM EMD Date 11/08/2020 before 5.00P M.

Terms and Conditions of Auction Sale: - (1) The Tender form can be collected from **The Hotel Industrialists Co-Op Bank Ltd., "Sahakara Sourabha" No.234, 2nd Cross, 4th Main, Chamarajapet, Bengaluru-560018. (Ph. 080-41277283)** on all working days during office hours. **(2)** The intending bidders should submit their bids in the prescribed tender form in closed cover along with EMD of 10% of the Reserve Price by means of Demand Draft / Banker's Cheque / Pay Order drawn in favour of **The Hotel Industrialists Co-Op Bank Ltd., Bangalore**- payable at Bangalore. The Demand Draft / Banker's Cheque / Pay Order shall be drawn after the date of publication of this Tender – cum – Auction Sale Notice. **(3)** Tenders not in the prescribed format will not be accepted. The tender along with the EMD shall be submitted at **The Hotel Industrialists Co-Op Bank Ltd., Bangalore**.Tender without EMD shall be summarily rejected. **(4)** The property "SHALL NOT" be sold below the reserve price. **(5)** In case the bidder is not successful the E M D amount shall be refunded without interest. **(6)** The EMD amount shall be liable for forfeiture without prior notice, if the successful bidder fails to adhere to the terms and conditions of the Auction Sale. **(7)** The sealed tenders will be opened by the Authorised Officer in the presence of the available / attending bidders. **(8)** After opening the tenders, the intending bidders may be given opportunity at the discretion of the Authorised Officer to have, intense bidding amongst themselves to enhance the offer Price. **(9)** The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the Sale Price (inclusive of EMD) immediately after the auction sale, on the same day, in Cash or Demand Draft and the balance of the Sale Price within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale. In case of default by the successful bidder, all the amounts deposited till then shall be forfeited without notice and the property shall be put for re-auction. **(10)** The successful bidder shall bear the statutory dues / taxes / charges / property tax / E B charges / water charges / conveyance charges such as stamp duty, registration fee etc. that is required to be paid in order to get the property conveyed in his favour, as per the applicable laws. **(11)** The Authorised Officer has absolute right to accept or reject any or all of the tender or/ bid / offer and / or adjourn / postpone / cancel the Auction Sale without assigning any reason, and also to modify an or all terms and conditions of the sale without prior notice. **(12)** The sale is subject to confirmation by the Bank. **(13)** The property can be inspected by the intending bidder between 10.00 AM and -5.00PM at his expenses at the address mentioned in the Schedule. **(14)** The property is put for sale on **"AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" and "AS IS WHAT IS CONDITION".** The intending bidder shall satisfy himself about the title, ownership, statutory approvals, encumbrances etc. of the property. **(15)** Bidders can bid for all or any one of the lots by submitting their EMD amount for the individual property.

For further details the intending bidders may contact the Authorised Officer, The Hotel Industrialists Co-Op Bank Ltd., Bangalore "Sahakara Sourabha" No.234, 2nd Cross, 4th Main, Chamarajapet, Bengaluru-560018, for ascertaining the details of property and also for inspection of property (Contact No.080-41277283) E-Mail:ho@hicbank.com

Date: 24.07.2020
Place: Bangalore

Sd/- Authorised Officer
The Hotel Industrialists Co-Op Bank Ltd.

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COVID-19

04 BENGALURU SATURDAY 25.07.2020

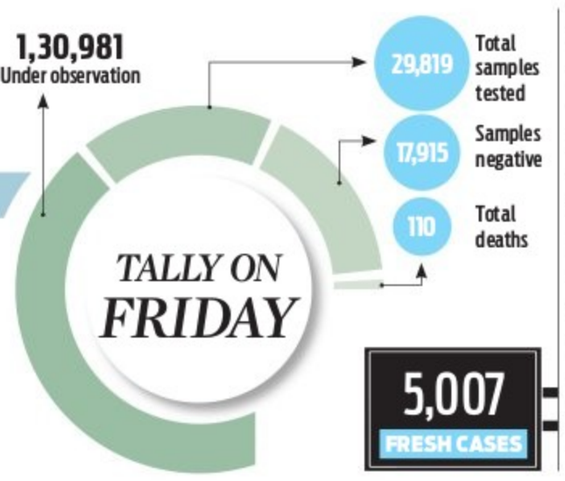
On Friday, a total of 29,819 samples were tested across the state, among which 22,408 were RT-PCR tests and 7,411 were rapid antigen tests

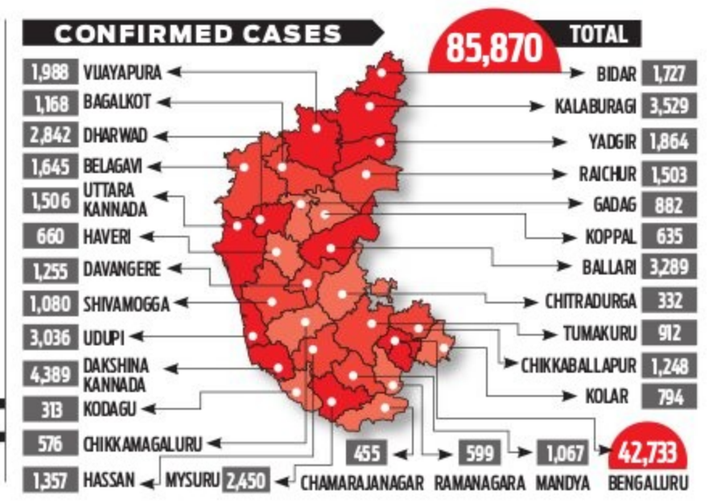
2,037 NEW RECOVERIES

31,347 TOTAL RECOVERED

HELPLINES
080-46848600
080-66692000

104 Arogya Sahayavani will function too





Wages cut for med college staff

But institutions collect fee from students, don't depend on hospital earnings: IMA-K secy

RANJANI MADHAVAN @Bengaluru

AS the Covid pandemic is creating havoc with their balance sheets, private medical colleges and hospitals across Bengaluru have announced forced leave without salaries and pay cuts to their staff.

St. John's National Academy of Health Sciences recently ordered that the employees have to go on seven days leave without pay and their duties would be staggered due to the big deficit in earnings.

The hospital director, Dr Paul Parathazham, wrote in the order that because of a sharp decline in the number of regular patients visiting the hospital and closure of colleges, the workload in most departments has decreased substantially. "This has resulted in a huge deficit in revenue. Despite the deficit, salaries were paid in full the last four months drawing upon our capital reserves and by deferring the payments due to our contractors and vendors. Going forward, we are short of resources to pay the salaries as usual. To help tide over this crisis, the executive committee in consultation with the heads of departments, have taken the following policy decisions," the order reads.

Private colleges and hospitals are sending staff on forced leave | PANDARINATH B

From August 2020 onwards, until further notice, all employees in St. John's are required to take seven days leave without pay and seven days earned leave in a month. Those who do not wish to take the earned leave or do not have earned leave, have to take 14 days leave without pay.

Department heads have been told to implement the order for the rest of July. The policy does not apply to faculty and staff of the emergency, critical care and certain other essential services, said the order dated July 16, 2020.

"Parents are in a difficult financial situation and are not willing to pay fees for next year. We have reduced the salary by 30 percent for our senior residents, professors, assistant professors and associate professors who are earning more than Rs 30,000 per month. Once we get the fees, we will repay what we have deducted," said Dr Naveen S, principal, Rajarajeswari Medical College and Hospital.

Dr Srinivasa S, state secretary, Indian Medical Association - Karnataka, said they have requested private medical colleges not to deduct wages or enforce leave without pay. "Revenues in hospitals are hit by Covid, but medical colleges are collecting fees from students. Also, they don't have to entirely depend on earnings from hospitals. Colleges like BGS Global Institute of Medical Sciences, Vydehi Institute of Medical Sciences and Research Centre and Sapthagiri Institute of Medical Sciences and Research Centre have also implemented wage cuts," he said.

"If the employee does not have earned leave, he/she is forced to take leave without pay for 10-15 days. Those above 55 years old and are exempt from Covid duty are also seeing wage cuts," he said.

PIC: VINOD KUMAR T

Over 90 trainee cops test positive

Bengaluru: Over 90 trainees at the Police Training School (PTS) in Thanisandra, Bengaluru, tested positive for Covid-19 during a random test conducted last week. "The campus was fumigated and random testing was done. We were left shocked as more than 90 trainees tested positive," an official said. "Some are quarantined on campus, others have been taken to designated hospitals and CCCs," he added. Over 400 trainees selected as police constables are training at the PTS, but following the outbreak and surge in cases, all activities at the school have been paused. ENS

NUMBERS RISE

5,000+ CASES AGAIN, BUT STATE CROSSES 10,000 DISCHARGES TOO

Bengaluru: Bengaluru Urban district crossed the 40,000-plus mark in Covid positive cases on Friday, with 2,267 new cases being reported. In some good news, the district also crossed 10,000 discharges. Overall, the state recorded 5,007 new cases, pushing the total tally to 85,870. The number of deaths reported in the state on Friday stood at 110, with 50 of them from Bengaluru Urban. The total Covid deaths now stand at 1,724. Among the patientswho succumbed to the virus on Friday, 15 were under contact tracing, while the majority of them were diagnosed with SARI and ILI. Three victims had travel history to Hubbali, Bengaluru and Maharashtra. The state health department has not put out information regarding contact history, age or travel history of the people who tested positive on Friday. ENS

COVID WATCH

Man in home isolation ends life

Mysuru: A day after a Covid-positive person committed suicide in Mandya, another ended his life in Mysuru on Friday. A 57-year-old employee of JK Tyres was found hanging in his house at Gokulam 3rd Stage. He was sent to a CCC, but opted for home isolation. "The incident came to light on Friday morning," a source said. VV Puram police have registered a case. Meanwhile, four policemen attached to Mandi police station tested positive and have been sent to Vikram Hospital in Yadavgiri. The station is sealed. ENS

RT-PCR test to cost up to ₹3,000

Bengaluru: The state government has revised downwards the rates for RT-PCR tests and fixed the rates of rapid antigen tests, as suggested by the task force committee. Now, an RT-PCR test costs Rs 2,000 if the government refers a patient to a private lab and Rs 3,000 if a person approaches the private lab directly. Earlier, it was Rs 2,250 and up to Rs 4,500 respectively. A rapid antigen test for private samples in private laboratories is Rs 700 per sample. Costs are inclusive of PPE. ENS

Rly staffer dies of Covid, fourth in SWR

Bengaluru: A 58-year-old supervisor in the commercial department of the Bengaluru Railway Division died of Covid-19 on Friday, making him the fourth serving railway staffer in the South Western Railway Zone to succumb to the disease. A total of 26 positive cases were reported across SWR on Friday. A total of 274 have tested positive in railway hospitals across SWR as on July 24, of whom 162 have recovered. ENS

Positive patients missing for four days

Mysuru: Tension gripped residents of Ramanuja Road in KR Mohalla in Mysuru after three positive patients who claimed that they were from the area went missing four days ago. Corporator Manjunath said they are unable to trace their addresses or contact them as their cell phones are switched off. He said it would not have been difficult to track them if authorities had taken a photocopy or other documents that had residential proof. ENS

Mysuru tops state in Covid-19 fatality rate

KARTHIK K K @Mysuru

IT was a Black Friday for Mysuru as the district reported its highest-ever single-day spike in Covid-19 cases with 281 positives and six deaths.

What is more worrying is the fact that the district has topped the mortality rate chart at 4.3%, while the state average is less than half of that at 2%.

The district has so far reported 99 Covid deaths, including that of a 14-year-old boy and two women in 25 to 30 year age group. Mysuru has recorded 31 deaths per million population, while Karnataka has 26.3 deaths per million.

In the last three days, the district has reported 542 cases and 19 deaths, while only 75 recovered patients have been discharged. The recovery rate of Mysuru has also come down drastically and as on Friday, the district had a recovery rate of 30.5%, while the state average was 36.5%.

Senior officials attributed the increase in cases to more testing and a large number of employees at JK Tyres testing positive.

Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G Sankar told TNIE, "RT-PCR, rapid antigen tests and testing at three private hospitals are all going on parallelly. The rise in Covid deaths is because fatalities from neighbouring districts are also being added. Patients from Mandya and Chamarajanagar are referred to Mysuru, and they expire here. Majority of deaths are of patients with heavy comorbidities," he said.

As on Friday, Mysuru had reported 2,450 cases, of whom 749 have been discharged, while 1,602 are being treated. In all, 229 patients are at Covid hospitals, while 670 are under home isolation. A total of 35,871 samples have been tested so far.

Final-year med students to join corona fight: Sudhakar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

MEDICAL Education Minister Dr K Sudhakar on Friday directed officials to utilise the services of final-year medical students to fight Covid-19, as the government is facing a shortage of staff to achieve its testing targets. Along with direct recruitment, the final-year students of lab technician courses, science students of RGUHS and volunteers will be given proper training before assigning Covid duties, he said during a discussion with officials through video-conferencing,

The government is facing an uphill task as it has set a steep target of collecting 30,000 samples per day in Bengaluru alone, but faces a crippling shortage of staff. Already, staff from around 80 private labs in Bengaluru are being used for the task. If the response to direct recruitment is poor, newspaper advertisements can be given by increasing emoluments, the minister said.

There have been issues in sharing information collected from the door-to-door survey real time, and a decision has been taken to allow zone-wise dashboards to share war room data. He instructed officials to recruit data entry operators from Keonics.

The city has over 12,000 containment zones, and there is a need to quickly trace ILI and SARI cases and pass on the information to zonal officials. It is also the duty of zonal teams to provide ambulances wherever necessary, he said, and directed officials to recruit necessary staff to these teams too.

There is a need to spread awareness on people infected, under quarantine and treatment, he said and asked public representatives to be proactive.

Senior officers Shalini Rajaneesh, Ajay Seth, Manjunath Prasad, Munish Moudgil, Satyavathi, D. Randeep, Anbu Kumar, Dr Manjula and others were present during the video-conference.

Staff ask govt to make KC General Covid-only hospital

Docs put off protest

Bengaluru: After the assault on a doctor at KC General Hospital and violence in Belagavi, the Karnataka Association of Resident Doctors (KARD) had called for a nationwide black band protest, and demanded action against the culprits. However, KARD has now decided to withhold the protest for 10 days after an assurance from TK Anil Kumar, principal secretary, health and family welfare department (medical education), that their issues would be resolved. KARD president Dr Dayanand Sagar said they have got assurance that their demands will be met, which night duty allowance, good quality PPE kits, and release of their stipend. ENS

IFFATH FATHIMA @Bengaluru

AFTER a recent assault on a 48-year-old senior physician at KC General Hospital, the hospital staff appealed to Deputy Chief Minister Dr C N Ashwath Narayan to run only Covid services at the hospital and to shut out non-Covid treatment as it is proving to be a burden on the staff to manage a high number of both oCovid and non-Covid patients. But, the DyCM is said to have put off their request and asked them to serve both categories of patients.

The hospital has 360 beds, of which 100 are dedicated to Covid treatment and the rest for non-Covid patients. The hospital has been running full for the last few days. Adding to the pressure is the absence of over 60 staffers, who have tested positive for Covid and are under quarantine.

"So far, people working at the outpatient, casualty, operation theatre, gynaecology departments, blood bank and clerical staff, have tested positive as there is a constant flood of people. Even though the staff wear all the safety equipment, they have been infected that too in non-Covid areas," said a senior doctor, who wished not to be identified.

"If the situation is not brought under control, the rest of the staff too will test positive soon. At the emergency department, patients do not wait and start arguing. It is getting very strenuous for us. Many staffers don't want to work, but we counsel them and make them work. Many hospitals refer patients to our hospital. Jayanagar General Hospital too takes in such patients, but they have better infrastructure than KC General," said another senior doctor.

We have been told to care for both Covid and non-Covid patients, but our staffers are extremely scared. Of over 60 who tested positive, 40 have recovered and some have returned to work

Dr B R Venkateshaiah, Medical Superintendent, KC General Hospital

Medical Superintendent, KC General Hospital, Dr B R Venkateshaiah, said, "We have been told to care for both Covid and non-Covid patients, but our staffers are extremely scared. Of over 60 who tested positive, 40 have recovered and some have returned to work."

Another senior doctor said that police officials have been stationed after the assault, but they are scared to come inside the hospital. "These officers only do the rounds outside the hospital in jeeps. Everybody is scared, yet the government doesn't understand," he added.

Over 30 attempts being made in country on Covid vaccine, says expert

BALA CHAUHAN @Bengaluru

THE work on research and development of Covid vaccine in the country is on a war footing. "There are over 30 attempts being made and 20 of them are doing reasonably well," said Prof K VijayRaghavan, principal scientific advisor, Union government, while speaking at the Synergia Virtual Forum on 'Accelerating the development of novel & affordable therapies', organised by Synergia Foundation.

"Big companies have gone into vaccine design and manufacturing in an incredible manner. But we are also seeing smaller companies, start-ups and academic labs coming into this in a big way," he added. "The world will need many vaccines, each one better than the other. It's going to be a big challenge and no matter when the vaccines are made, Indian vaccine companies will play a big role in bulk manufacturing, filling and distribution," he said. "India is the biggest manufacturer of vaccines. Two out of every three children in the world have received vaccines made in India," he added.

He stressed on the role of technology in managing Covid and development of drugs. "The pandemic has seen people coming together to manufacture and provide ventilators, oxygen-support devices, contact-tracing apps, discovery, design and development of drugs through open source," he said.

He stressed upon the role of climate change, environment and ecology and the need for sustainable development. "We have a close human-animal proximity and the zoonotic diseases, which were on low probability earlier, are happening now. Growth of cities, which is an inevitable consequence of growing economies, has meant an extraordinarily large number of people coming together," he said.

Earlier, Dr Chas Bountra, provice-chancellor for Innovation at the University of Oxford, spoke about the need for research and innovation, global partnerships, industry, governments, regulators, patent groups, funders and the importance of open source, artificial intelligence, new platforms, biomarkers and machine learning.

In a first such posting by the South Western Railway, seven women sub-inspectors were inducted into the Railway Protection Force. Three more women SIs undergoing training at Lucknow will join them soon

Kudremukh National Park finally gets its ESZ

Move will regulate development around protected area

MEERA BHARDWAJ @Bengaluru

AFTER much delay, the Centre has finally notified the ESZ (Eco-Sensitive Zone) of Kudremukh National Park. With this, the protected area will have an ESZ area of 316.67 sqkm and an extent ranging from zero to 9.6 km around the boundary of the park. Apart from this, 58 villages and 108 revenue enclosures in the districts of Chikkamagaluru, Dakshina Kannada and Udupi which are included in the ESZ, will need to adhere to rules that prohibit and regulate industrial and commercial activities.

The zero extent of ESZ is in the northern side of the national park as it adjoins the Someshwara Wildlife Sanctuary. Notified on July 2, the 108 revenue enclosures fall in the taluks of Belthangady, Sringeri, Koppa, Mudigere and Karkala taluks and will now form part of the ESZ.

The State will propose and formulate the Zonal Master Plan within two years from the date of notification. This plan will regulate development in ESZ and strictly adhere to rules on prohibited and regulated activities.

No land use change, no new hotels or resorts or commercial establishments or construction on hill slopes will be permitted.

Welcoming the notification, G Veeresh, honorary wildlife warden, Chikkamagaluru, said, "This is a forest area in the Western Ghats that has slowly rejuvenated in the last 15 years. The ESZ will ensure more protection of its rare flora and fauna."

Located at the tri-junction of three districts, Kudremukh is a unique landscape having low elevation wet evergreen forests and Shola-Grassland Biome in the entire stretch of Western Ghats. Varying from altitudes of 135 metres to 1,900 metres from the sea level, Kudremukh was saved due to activism and legal fight that ended in 2005 and put a stop to mining by KIOCL company.

Apart from the floral wealth of Kudremukh, the faunal value is of critical importance. It is the largest remaining habitat of the single largest population of Lion Tailed Macaques in India and the world. It is also the home of the longest venomous snake in the world, the king cobra, and the Malabar Slender Loris.

> *This is a forest area in the Western Ghats that has slowly rejuvenated in the last 15 years. The ESZ will ensure more protection of its rare flora and fauna*
>
> **G Veeresh, honorary wildlife warden, Chikkamagaluru**

Officials in dark over tobacco spitting

MG CHETAN @Bengaluru

CHEWING tobacco and spitting in public places has continued unabated, despite the state government banning the practice as a precautionary measure against Coronavirus. But violators go unpunished because of the lackadaisical attitude of health department officials.

The state government banned the practice on May 29, inviting plaudits from public health experts, who hailed it as a move not only to safeguard the 'aesthetics' of the state, but also to curb the spread of COVID-19.

But till date, there seems to be no significant progress in implementing the ban. The health department wrote to all the deputy commissioners and superintendents of police directing them to implement the ban only on June 26, nearly a month after the ban came into effect. Meanwhile, cases both in Bengaluru and other districts of Karnataka are rising.

Interestingly, due to lack of coordination, many of the implementing authorities are not even aware of such an order. While health and police officials are busy booking those not maintaining social distancing and not wearing masks, chewing and spitting tobacco continues unabated, which may fuel the spread of Coronavirus.

While the police are authorised to book violators under various sections of the IPC, many officers at police station levels were not even aware of such an order. Two IPS officers in the city this reporter spoke to seemed unaware of any such order, but said "police had continued booking cases under COTPA, which also prohibits smoking in public and selling tobacco products to minors."

Supreme Court advocate K V Dhananjay, also an activist fighting for regulation of tobacco products, said the order of the state government merely prohibits the use and consumption of chewing tobacco products but does not prohibit their sale. "It is an order that is dead at birth! It is impossible for the enforcement agencies to monitor the use of such harmful products in public when they are told to freely permit commerce (distribution, sale, etc) and still do something to curb public use. It is impossible for anybody to make any sense of this order. It does show that the government is passing such orders more as a pretence and has no public interest in its approach," he said.

"Studies have shown that a teaspoon of saliva of a Covid-infected person carries a trillion of those viruses - large and potent enough to infect any person that goes within the vicinity of the spit immediately or up to half-an-hour after spitting," he added.

New director at IISc

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

PROF Govindan Rangarajan was appointed as the Director of Indian Institute of Science (IISc), replacing director Prof Anurag Kumar. Rangarajan will take over from August 1. The IISc governing council appointed him after getting approval from President Ram Nath Kovind.

Prior to this, Rangarajan was chairing the Division of Interdisciplinary Research at IISc. He was also the Chairman of the Department of Mathematics and International Relations Cell.

Rangarajan obtained an Integrated MSc (Hon) degree from Birla Institute of Technology & Science, Pilani, and a PhD from University of Maryland. He worked at the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, USA, before returning to India in 1992. Kumar was IISc's director since 2014. In 2018, IISc was also selected as an Institution of Eminence by the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

EXPRESS READ

Migrant spl to run to Guwahati today

Bengaluru: After a gap of 17 days, a Shramik Special train for migrants will leave from KSR Railway Station to Guwahati on Saturday. The train will go via Odisha, Howrah and New Jalpaiguri to Guwahati, said AN Krishna Reddy, PRO, Bengaluru Division. N Manjunatha Prasad, Principal Secretary, Revenue Dept, said, "A total of 900 people have already expressed their interest in leaving for their hometowns. We will be able to accommodate up to 1,500 people," he said. These trains were stopped on July 7 due to poor patronage. **ENS**

Gokak court issues summons to BSY for poll code violation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Belagavi

A JMFC court in Gokak has issued summons to Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa for alleged violation of the Model Code of Conduct during by-polls in November last year.

During his rally at Valmiki Stadium on November 23 last year, the CM had allegedly called upon the Veerashaiva-Lingayat community voters to ensure that their votes are not split. He had attempted to consolidate the Veerashaiva voters in Gokak where Lingayat-Veerashaiva is one of the dominant communities.

The Investigating Officer in the case from Gokak Town Police Station, had filed a B-report in the court for dismissal of the case. But the court rejected it and ordered summon to the CM.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform general public that my clients are intending purchase schedule property from its **Sri. K.V.Narasimhan,** S/o. Late Sri. K.L.Vasudev, No.52/8, 1st Main Road, 5th Cross, Marenahalli, Bangalore-560010.

Any persons having any claim over the schedule property may lodge their claim within 15 (Fifteen) days from the today, with the undersigned with all documentary evidence. If no claims are lodged within the stipulated time, my clients will proceed to finalize the sale transaction and any claims lodged thereafter will not be entertained by my client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property bearing No.8 (Previously site bearing Nos. 8 and 8/1 still earlier portions of site bearing No.52), situated at First Main, Marenahalli, Bangalore, Corporation Ward No.35, PID No.35-8-8, measuring East to West : 40 ft. and North to South : 60 ft., in all ad-measuring 2,400 sq.ft. together with residential structures standing thereon and bounded on the East By : Property bearing old Nos.20 and 21, West By : Road North By :Private Property and South By : Road (Earlier property bearing No.25)

Sri P.D. SURANA, Advocate
No: 9, II Floor, Kurubara Sangha Building, 2nd Main Road, Gandhinagara, Bengaluru – 560 009.
Place : Bangalore Date : 24-07-2020

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby notified that Sri N.A. Jayaramashetty W/o Late N.V. Ananthaiahshetty, residing at Maruthi Extension, Malur Town, Malur Taluk-563 130, Kolar District is the owner of the schedule property described infra.

It is noticed that original sale deed dated 05.05.1993 (Doc. No. 197/1993-94) executed by Sri K. Narayana Reddy in favour of Sri Venkatagiriappa, registered at the office of Senior Sub-Registrar, Malur, pertaining to the Schedule Property is lost / misplaced. In this connection, a police complaint was lodged on 01.07.2020 at Malur Police Station, Malur.

The finder of the said document is requested to surrender the original sale deed to the undersigned within 15 days from this day, failing which, it shall be deemed that the Sale Deed is irretrievably lost and certified copy of the same shall be obtained from the office of Sub-registrar of Assurances in lieu of lost original for the purpose of records.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property bearing New Katha No. 3650/3434/2, Old Municipal Katha No.3434:3115, property no.2-507-92, situated at 2nd Stage, Maruthi Layout, Malur Town, measuring East to West : 40 ft. and North to South : 30 ft. together with building consisting of Ground & First Floors & bounded as follows : on the East by : Road West by : Property belonging to Sri Devi Bhavan, North by: Property belonging to Sri Mohammed Samiulla, South by : Property belonging to Smt.S. Madhavilatha

R. RAJALAKSHMI, Advocate
Nos.519 & 520, III Floor, Prabhat Complex, K.G. Road, Bangalore-560 009.
Ph: 41247862 & 41224958
Bangalore Date : 24.07.2020

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client are desirous of purchasing all that piece and parcel of Vacant Plot / Site bearing No. 105, CMC P.I.D. No. 38-579-34, CMC Hoskote Khatha No. 12312/148/1/105, measuring to an extent East to West: Northern Side 12.67 mtrs, Southern side 12.19 Mtrs, North to South: Eastern Side 10.17 Mtrs, Western Side 6.71 Mtrs, totally measuring 104.79484 sqm or 1128 Sq.ft situated at 34, #T, 20th Cross Road, 38,22, Kannurahalli Road East, Varadapura, Hoskote Town, Bangalore Rural District, carved in converted Residential Layout approved by (BMRDA) Hoskote Planning Authority dated 28.02.2013 vide HPA/LAO No. 21/2012-13, known as "HJC INCITY", formed in the land bearing Sy. No. 148/1, measuring 4 Acres 09 Guntas and remaining composite land bearing Sy. No. 149/1A measuring to an extent of 1 Acre 15 Guntas, Sy. No. 138/2 measuring 2 Acres, Sy. No. 138/3, measuring 1 Acre 02 Guntas, Sy. No. 149/1B1 measuring 37 Guntas, Sy. No. 149/2 measuring 32 Guntas, totally measuring in whole 10 Acres 15 guntas of land situated at Kannurhalli Road East, Varadapura, Hoskote Town, Bangalore Rural District from its present owners SRI H.C. ASHWATHNARAYANA, aged about 63 years, S/o Late Sri H.J. Chikkashamanna, residing at K.R. Extension, Hoskote Town, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District-562 114.

Any person/s having any claims of whatsoever nature, in respect of the aforesaid property or any portion thereof, may write to the undersigned within FIFTEEN days of issuance of this notice with documentary evidence on which basis they are making their claims in respect of the aforesaid Plot or any part thereof in any manner whatsoever, failing which my clients shall proceed on the basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature in respect of the aforesaid Plot.

B.J. VEERENDRA KUMAR, Advocate
No. 116/6/1, III Floor, Next to Union Bank of India, 11th Cross, Malleswaram, Bangalore-560 003.
Ph: 23462686, 98451 59982

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IT ALWAYS SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL IT'S DONE

NELSON MANDELA

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the authorized officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** (Formerly known as Janalakshmi Financial Services Limited)., under the Securitization And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act,2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued demand notices to the borrower(s)/ Co-borrower (s) calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned against the respective names together with interest thereon at the applicable rates as mentioned in the said notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notices, along with future interest as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred till the date of payment and/ or realisation.

Sr. No.	Loan No.	Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	13(2) Notice Date/ Outstanding Due (in Rs.) as on	Date/Time & Type of Possession
1	30198850004341	(1) M/s. Sri Ganapathy Electricals, Represented by its Proprietor **Mrs. Sujatha C,** 2) **Mrs. Sujatha C & 3) Mr.Sarvana S**	28.06.2019 Rs.1,33,431/- as on 09.06.2019	23.07.2020 Time: 11.00 a.m Symbolic Possession
	Description of Secured Asset: All that piece and parcel of the amalgamated property bearing corporation quarters No. 330 situated at Austin Town, Bangalore-560047, formed by Bangalore Development Authority, Bangalore, measuring East to West 22 Ft, North to South 12 Ft, in all measuring 264 Sq.ft **and bounded on the:- East by:** Property No.347; **West By:** Road; **North by:** Property No.331; **South by:** Remaining property No.330/1 belonging to S.Parmesh and G.Nalini Jayanthi.			
2	45349430000133	(1) Mr. Hari Krishna A (2) Mrs. M.Lalitha	22.01.2020 Rs.37,00,529/- as on 10.01.2020	23.07.2020 Time: 12.00 P.M Symbolic Possession
	Description of Secured Asset: Item No.1: All that piece and parcel of the Immovable property bearing Site No. 20, Katha No. 48/3, situated at Hoodi Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, formerly Bangalore South Taluk. The Property comes under the BBMP, formerly CMC Mahadevpura and measuring East To West: (65 + 52)/2 Ft and North To South: (40 + 42) /2 Ft. In all an admeasuring 2398.5 Sq.ft, together with all rights, appurtenances in whatsoever manner wether underneath or above the surface **and bounded on the:- East by:** Road; **West by:** Muniyappa's Property; **North by:** Site Nos.17 & 18; **South by:** Site No.22. **Item No.2:** All that piece and Parcel of the Immovable property bearing Site No.6, Katha No.48/3, situated at Hoodi Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, formerly Bangalore South Taluk, the property comes under the jurisdiction of BMP, formerly CMC Mahadevpura and measuring **East to West:** 28ft & **North to South:** 18ft, in all measuring 504 Sq.ft together with all rights and appurtenances in whatsoever manner whether underneath or above the surface and commonly, **bounded on the:- East by:** Road; **West by:** Muniyappa's Property; **North by:** Kariyappa's Property; **South by:** Owner's property.		

Whereas the Borrower's/Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors, mentioned herein above have failed to repay the amounts due, notice is hereby given to the Borrower's mentioned herein above in particular and to the Public in general that the authorised officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** has **taken possession** of the properties/secured assets described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the dates mentioned above. The Borrower's/Co-Borrower's/Guarantor's/ Mortgagors mentioned herein above in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the aforesaid properties/Secured Assets and any dealings with the said properties/ Secured assets will be subject to the charge of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited.**

Place: Bangalore
Date: 24.07.2020

Sd/- Authorised Officer
For. Jana Small Finance Bank Limited

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK

Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071. Branch Office: Divyashree Chambers, #11, O'Shaughnessy Road, 5th Floor, "A" Wing, Off Langford Road, Shanthi Nagar, Bengaluru-560025.

ESTD: 1907

THE BANGALORE CITY CO-OPERATIVE BANK LIMITED
Administrative Office: # 3, PAMPAMAHAKAVI ROAD, CHAMARAJAPET, BANGALORE –18. Ph. : 26678572 : 26600512 : 26609066.
General Manager : 26617980 : Tele Fax : (080) 26617980

POSSESSION NOTICE (Rule 8 (1) (for immovable property)(Symbolically)

Whereas the undersigned being the authorised officer of The Bangalore City Co.operative Bank Ltd., A.O., No.3, Pampamahakavi Road, Chamarajapet, Bangalore-18 under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Ordinance, 2002 (Ord. 3 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued and demand notice calling upon the undersigned borrowers/ legal heirs to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers /legal heirs having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers /legal heirs and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Ordinance read with rule 9 of the said rule.

The borrowers / legal heirs in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of The Bangalore City Co.operative Bank Ltd., A.O., No.3, Pampamahakavi Road, Chamarajapet, Bangalore-18.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Sl. No.	Name of the Loanee	Balance outstanding	Particulars of Immovable Property & Measurement
SANJAYANAGAR BRANCH			
1.	Sri. Narayanaswamy T.N	Demand Notice Dated : 17.12.2019 Possession Notice Dated : 20.07.2020 Balance outstanding : Rs. 80,70,659/- as on : 20.07.2020	**1st Schedule :** Property & Measurement : **Old No.33, New No. 21, PID No.98-33-21, 10th Cross, Ganganagar (Gangenahalli), BMP Ward No. 98, Bengaluru.** Measuring: **East to West : 41 feet & North to South : 17 feet,** East by: **Others Property :** West by: **Road,** North by: **Others Property,** South by : **Others Property** **2nd Schedule:** Property & Measurement : **No. 44/1, before 44 & 1, 5th Main Road, Hebbal, Binny Mill Road, PID No. 98-76-44/1, BBMP Ward No. 98, Ganganagara, Bengaluru.** Measuring: **East to West : 30 feet & North to South : 50 feet ,** East by: **Jayaram's Property,** West by : **Huchappa's Property,** North by : **Road,** South by : **Channappa Reddy's Property.**
H.R.B.R. LAYOUT BRANCH			
2.	Dr. Hyder Sab.Y.B	Demand Notice Dated : 03.02.2020 Possession Notice Dated : 20.07.2020 Balance outstanding : Rs. 44,32,036/- as on : 20.07.2020	Property & Measurement : **No. 33/2, Old No.33 (Southern Portion), Old PID No. 96-136-33, 12th Cross, Kanakanagar, Nagawara Village, BBMP Ward No. 96 of Hebbal, PID No. 96-136-33/2, Bengaluru.** Measuring: **East to West : 20 feet & North to South : 30 feet,** East by : **New BBMP No.33 (formerly portion of BBMP No.33) belongs to Sri. L.N. Gowda,** West by:**New BBMP No.33/1, (formerly South West portion of BBMP No.33) belongs to Smt. Shamshad Begum & Sri. P. Palani.** North by: **New BBMP No. 33/3 (formerly Middle of the Northern portion of BBMP No.33), belongs to Sri. Mohammed Muneer Ulla** South by : **12th Cross Road.**
3.	Smt. Fathima Khan	Demand Notice Dated : 28.01.2020 Possession Notice Dated : 20.07.2020 Balance outstanding : Rs. 50,82,052/- as on : 20.07.2020	Property & Measurement : **House Property bearing No.34, 11th Cross, AMC Road, Kushal Nagar, BBMP Ward No.95 of Kavalbyrasandra, Kadugondanahalli, Kasaba Hobli, PID No.95-586-34, Bengaluru.** Measuring: **East to West : 40 feet & North to South : 30 feet,** East by:**Road,** West by : **Site No.87,** North by : **Road,** South by: **Conservancy Lane.**
4.	Sri. Ravindra. N	Demand Notice Dated : 28.01.2020 Possession Notice Dated : 20.07.2020 Balance outstanding : Rs. 1,05,36,900/- as on : 20.07.2020	Property & Measurement : **Khaneshumari No. 132, House List Khatha No. 244/132, Sy No. 151/1, BBMP Old Khatha No. 132/1, Present Khatha No. 244, BBMP Ward No. 25 of Horamavu, Horamavu Agrara Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru.** Measuring : **East to West :** $\frac{83.6 + 88.4}{2}$ **feet & North to South:** $\frac{32.11 + 30.10}{2}$ **feet,** East by : **Property belongs to R. Venkatesh,** West by : **Property belongs to Srinivasa,** North by : **Property belongs to R. Venkatesh,** South by : **Road.**

Date : 24.07.2020
Place: Bangalore

Sd/- Authorized Officer
The Bangalore City Co-operative Bank Ltd.,

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Sister Shivani
Spiritual Guru

SATURDAY, JULY 25, 9 PM

IN CONVERSATION WITH

Prabhu Chawla
Editorial Director, The New Indian Express

Kaveree Bamzai
Author and Journalist

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CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, (OLD NAME) HARSHA PAI.U, Residing at No. 406, Ground Floor, 2nd Main, 2nd Cross, Chandrashekaran Block, BEML Layout, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru-560098, have changed my name to **(NEW NAME) HARSHA SHETTY** vide affidavit Dated 03/07/2020 sworn before Notary Gangaraju.B.N. Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, (OLD NAME) J. SREENIVASAN, S/o. R.Jaganathan, residing at No. C2, 516, V.B.H.C. Palmhaven-2, Kengeri, Bangalore, have changed my name to **(NEW NAME) J.SRINIVASAN** vide affidavit Dated 22/07/2020 sworn before Notary H.S.Sheshadri, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **KANAKA BUSAN CHAKRABORTY,** residing at SMQ 387/2 6th Camp Air Force Station, Jalahalli East, Bangalore-560014, have changed my name from **KANAKA BUSAN CHAKRABORTY** to **KANAK BHUSAN CHAKRABORTY**. Vide affidavit dated 24/07/2020 sworn before Advocate & Notary T.C. Thimmaraja, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, (OLD NAME) MUBEENA BEGUM, W/o. Syed Shafiulla, residing at No. 69/1, Mekhri Compound Lalbagh Road, Bangalore-560027, have changed my name to **(NEW NAME) SYEDA MUBEENA BEGUM** vide affidavit Dated 22/06/2020 sworn before Notary Hemalatha.P., Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **G.ESWARAIAH** S/o **Venkaiah**, R/at No.03, Jehova Nissi, 2nd Main, 6th Cross, Near R.R.School, Doddabommasandra, Bangalore -560097, have changed my name to **G.E.JOSEPH(GONJIPALLI ESWARAIAH JOSEPH** vide affidavit dated:23/07/2020 before Notary **H.G.VenkataRamu** Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Service No. JC-776483H, Nb/Sub-KRISHAN KUMAR,** S/o Totaram, presently stationed at Bangalore have mentioned wrongly my wife name and date of birth **REENA YADAV 05.11.1989** instead of **REENA 27.05.1989,** vide affidavit dated 23.07.2020, before Notary Public Advocate **VARIJA C J,** Bangalore.

LOST and FOUND

I, **HIMAMPI SAIDHUSHAYAB** D/o **Saidhushayab,** have lost my Original Gift Deed, Document **No.401/1987** dated: **2/04/1987**,with respect to an extent of **1.36 cents** in **Sy.No. 621/1A2,** Property Situated at Machinayakanapalli, Panchakshipuram, Krishnagiri, Tamilnadu,

Finder Please Contact:
HIMAMPI SAIDHUSHAYAB
R/at No.15-1/1-90, Machinayakanapalli, Panchakshipuram, Krishnagiri, Tamilnadu- 635110.

CORRIGENDUM

This is to inform the general public that we have released a public notice dated 24th July 2020, wherein **"SCHEDULE PROPERTY"** it is wrongly published as Residential Flat No. Block A-1205 in 10th Floor, "VAISHNAVI OASIS", instead of Residential **Flat No. Block A-1205 in 12th Floor, "VAISHNAVI OASIS".**

SHAILAJA, Advocate,
No. 29, 4th Main, Brindavana Extn., Arakere, Bangalore-560 076.
Ph: 99722 33600 Date: 24.07.2020

CORRIGENDUM

This is to inform at public, I have published in news paper dated 17-07-2020 for purchase of property. By oversight the purchaser name is mentioned as **"Sri.M.K. Nagaraja Setty"** instead of **Sri.M.K.Narayana Setty,** The same has to be read as **``Sri.M.K.Narayana Setty"**

A.Venkataswamy, advocate
No.110/1, Nyaya kuteera, 4th main 9th Cross, Bangalore-560003

Indian Agricultural Research Institute New Delhi-110 012

NOTICE

it is observed that **Dr. P. Muthukumar, (Emp. No. 11046), Scientist, Division of Vegetable Sciences, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi** is **absenting himself form duty since 11.05.2018.** He has not joined his duty at Regional Station, Wellington and his whereabouts is unknown. He has not responded to any of the communications sent by this office.

By this publication, he is asked to join his duty at Regional Station, Wellington latest by 01.08.2020 failing which disciplinary action shall be initiated as per rules.

By orders, Director, IARI

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HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION LTD. CIN L70100MH1977PLC019916

Regd. Office: Ramon House, H T Parekh Marg, 169, Backbay Reclamation, Churchgate, Mumbai- 400020
Regional Office : HDFC House, No.51, Kasturaba Road, Bangalore - 560001. **Ph :** 080 41183000
Fax: 080 22275754, **E-mail :** customercare.bang@hdfc.com, **Website:** www.hdfc.com

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13 (2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (HDFC Limited)** under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued Demand Notice under Section 13 (2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) listed hereunder, to pay the amounts mentioned in the Demand Notice, within 60 days from the date of the said Notice, as per details given below. The undersigned have, caused/are getting the said Notice to be pasted on the premises of the last known respective addresses of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s). Copies of the said Notice are available with the undersigned, and the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s), may, if they so desire, collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.

In connection with the above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) to pay to HDFC Limited, within 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice, the amount indicated hereinbelow in their name(s), together with further interest @ 18% p.a. as detailed in the said Demand Notice from the date mentioned below in column (c) till the date of payment and / or realisation, read with the loan agreement and other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following Secured Asset has been mortgaged to HDFC Limited by the said Borrower (s) respectively.

Attention of the Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative (s)	Total Outstanding Dues	Date of Demand Notice / N.P.A. Date: (e)	(Description of Secured Asset in respect of which Security Interest has been created)
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(f)
1	**Borrower: (1) Mr. N V Manjunatha,** No 5, 21st Main Marenhalli, J P Nagar, J P Nagar II Phase, Near Shanti Sagar Hotel, Bengaluru 560078 **(2) Mr. N V Manjunatha,** Neranakallu, Hirekatti Ganahalli Post, Chint, Kyevar (H), Chinthamani Taluka, Chikkaballapur District, Chikkaballapur 563125 **(3) Mr. N V Manjunatha, Designation:** Proprietor Sri Patalamma Traders, No 22/1, 5th Cross 24th Main, Marenahalli, J P Nagar, Bengaluru 560078 **(4) Mr. N V Manjunatha,** No 53/2A, Hulimau Road, Hulimau Village, Begur Hobli, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru 560076.	**Loan A/c No: (1) 617868791 Rs. 59,50,779/- & (2) 618422791 Rs. 76,426/-** **Total : Rs. 60,27,205/- (Rupees Sixty Lakhs Twenty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Five Only) (as on 30.06.2020)**	13.07.2020 N.P.A. Date: (e) 31.01.2020	All that piece and parcel of residential Property bearing New No.391/53/2-A/84, old Katha No.391, Bommanahalli CMC Katha No.84, Site No. 53/2-A, Situated at Hulimavu Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Presently comes under the jurisdiction of BBMP Bangalore, Measuring East to West: 40-00 feet, North to South: 30-00 Feet, in all measuring 1200 Sq Feet., and which is bounded on: East by : Road, West by : Private Property and Site No.53/1V and 53/1S, North by : Site No.53/1Z, South by : Site No.53/2B. And any construction thereon.
2	**Borrower: (1) Mr. Kishore Kumar Panwar,** H - 203, Royal Legend Apartment, Kodichikkana Halli, Near Jockey Factory, Bengaluru 560068 **(2) Mr. Kishore Kumar Panwar,** House No-955, Sector-29, MIG Flats, Faridabad 121007 **(3) Mr.Kishore Kumar Panwar** HCL Technologies Limited, **Designation: Dy Manager Designation:** EHS-Finance **Employee No.:** 40190717 No 8 & 9, 1st Floor, Nagendra Chambers, G.B.Palya, Off Hosur Road, Bengaluru 560068 **(4) Mr. Kishore Kumar Panwar** Flat No.2, 7th Floor, B4 Block, Sovereign Unnathi - Phase I, Kalkere Village, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bengaluru 560083 **Co-Borrower : (1) Mrs. Chitra Panwar,** H - 203, Royal Legend Apartmen Kodichikkana Halli, Near Jockey Factory Bengaluru 560068 **(2) Mrs. Chitra Panwar** House No-955, Sector-29, MIG Flats, Faridabad 121007 **(3) Mrs. Chitra Panwar** Flat No.2, 7th Floor, B4 Block, Sovereign Unnathi - Phase I, Kalkere Village, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bengaluru 560083.	**Loan A/c No: 600651352 Rs. 10,65,119/- (Rupees Ten lakhs Sixty Five Thousand One Hundred Nineteen Only) (as on 30.06.2020)**	20.07.2020 N.P.A. Date: (e) 31.12.2019	**Schedule A:** All that portion of property bearing Sy.No.511, measuring 5 Acres 16 guntas including 24 Guntas of Kharab land situated at Kalkere Village, K .R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk (Earlier Bangalore South Taluk), and duly converted for non-agricultural residential purpose by the order of the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, bearing No.ALN(E).SR.(KH)14/2006-07 dated 20.01.2010 and presently bearing New Municipal Khata No.1, situated in Kalkere Main Road, Kalkere, Ramamurthynagar Sub – Division, Municipal Ward No.26, Bangalore and Bounded by: East 80 Feet Road in Sy. No.511 of Kalkere Village; West : Lands in Sy.Nos.512, 513 and 520 of Kalkere Village; North : Lands in Sy.Nos.586, and 521 of Kalkere Village; and South : Lands in Sy.Nos.502, 509 and 510 of Kalkere Village. **Schedule B:** All that Residential apartment bearing No.2 in the Seventh Floor of 'B4' Block and Door No."B4-72" in the Eighth Floor of the "1D-Block" of the project 'SOVEREIGN UNNATHI' to be built in Schedule 'A' Property and apartment measuring 856 Sq. feet of super built up area approximately inclusive of balconies, utility areas and proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, staircases along with one covered car parking space with 228 Sq. feet undivided share, right, title, interest and ownership in the land in the Schedule 'A' Property.
3	**Borrower: (1) Mrs.Rathnamma, 26,** Tippagondanahalli, Chamarajasagara, Bengaluru 562120 **(2) Mrs.Rathnamma** Plot 13, S No 149, House 13, Khatta 527/149/13, Herohalli Village, Yeshwantapura Hobli, Bengaluru 560022 **Co-Borrower : (1) Mr. Sathisha N** 26, Tippagondanahalli, Chamarajasagara, Bengaluru 562120 **(2) Mr. Sathisha N** Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corpn **Designation:** Technician **Designation:** Mechanics **Employee No.:** 7033 BMTC West Zone, BMTC Depot-35, Kannahali, Bengaluru 560079 **(3) Mr. Sathisha N** Plot 13, S No 149, House 13, Khatta 527/149/13, Herohalli Village, YeshwantapuraHobli, Bengaluru 560022.	**Loan A/c No: 629014656 Rs.8,15,125/- (Rupees Eight Lakhs Fifteen Thousand one Hundred Twenty Five Only) (as on 30.06.2020)**	20.07.2020 N.P.A. Date: (e) 29.02.2020	All that piece and parcel of Property bearing House List No.13, V.P.Katha No.527/149, present BBMP Katha No.527/149/13, situated at Herohalli Village, Yeshwanthapur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, within the limits of BBMP, Bangalore measuring East to West : 30 ft., North to South: 40 ft., and bounded as follows: East by: Site No.16, West by: Site No.12, North by: Road, South by: Site No.14.
4	**Borrower: (1) Mr. Shivanankari C** No 10, Beereswara Nagar, Near Udupi Ice Cream Road, Chunchaghatta Main Road, Anjanapura, Bengaluru 560062 **(2) Mr. Shivanankari C** Eastern Portion of Site No.10, Khatha No.36/1, Situated At Chunchunghatta Village, UttarahalliHobli, Bangalore 560062 **Co-Borrower: (1) Mrs. Radha S M,** No 10, Beereswara Nagar, Near Udupi Ice Cream Road, Chunchaghatta Main Road, Anjanapura, Bengaluru 560062 **(2) Mrs. Radha S M,** Eastern Portion of Site No.10, Khatha No.36/1, Situated At Chunchunghatta Village, UttarahalliHobli, Bangalore 560062.	**Loan A/c No: (1) 623298474Rs.13,37,477/- (2) 623298498 Rs.11,98,523/- (3) 623728499 Rs. 86,266/- (4) 623728736 Rs. 1,13,952/- (5) 625957454 Rs. 6,63,657/- (6) 626744667 Rs. 47,693/- Total Rs. 34,47,568/- (Rupees Thirty Four Lakhs Forty Seven Thousand Five Hundred Sixty Eight Only) (as on on 30.04.2020)**	14.07.2020 N.P.A. Date: (e) 31.10.2019	All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Eastern Portion of Site/Property No.10, Khata No.36/1, situated within the jurisdiction of BBMP, Ward No.195, Chunchaghatta Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring East to West 20 ft and North to South 35ft, totally measuring 700 Sq.ft and bounded on East by : Property No.11, West by : Western portion of Property No.10, North by : 20 feet Road, South by : Property No.13. And any construction thereon.
5	**Borrower: (1) Mr. Jayanta Chakrabarti,** Flat No: WA-207, Sriram Smrithi Apartments, Attibele Sarjapur Road, Bengaluru 562107 **(2) Mr. Jayanta Chakrabarti,** 601, Simpruk Indah Apartments, Jal Arteri Raya Kebayeram Lama, Jakarta, Selatan, Indonesia, **(3) Mr. Jayanta Chakrabarti** S6 # 202, Green Wood Regency, Near Wipro Office, Sarjapur Road, Carmelaram, Bengaluru 560035 **(4) Mr. Jayanta Chakrabarti** Indorama Synthetics TBK, **Designation:** Project Manager **Department:** Projects **Employee No.:** 800342 Graha Irama 11th Floor, Jl HR Rasuna Said, Blokx-1, Blok 1-2 Jakarta, Indonesia **(5) Mr. Jayanta Chakrabarti** Flat-T0211A, 11th Floor, Pashmina Water Front- ABC Blocks, Bhattarahalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru 560049 **Co-Borrowers (POA): (1) Mrs. Annie Chakkabarti,** S6 # 202, Green Wood Regency, Near Wipro Office, Sarjapur Road, Carmelaram, Bengaluru 560035 **(2) Mrs. Annie Chakkabarti,** Flat-T0211A, 11th Floor, Pashmina Water Front- ABC Blocks, Bhattarahalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru 560049.	**Loan A/c No: 605424499 Rs.72,08,093/- (Rupees Seventy Two Lakhs Eight Thousand Ninety Three Only) (as on on 31.05.2020)**	13.07.2020 N.P.A. Date: (e) 31.01.2020	All that piece and parcel of residential apartment bearing No.T0211A, in the 111th Floor, in Tower T02 of the building known as "PASHMINA WATERFRONT- ABC BLKS", having a super built up area of 1529 Sq. Feet along with one covered car parking space with proportionate share of 379 sq. feet of undivided share, right title and interest in the land bearing Sy.Nos.4, 5/1, 5/2, 6/1, 6/2, 6/3, 6/4, 7/1, 7/2, 7/3, 7/4, 7/5, 7/6, 8/1, 8/3, 8/4, 9/2, 9/3, 9/4, 9/5, 10/1, 10/2, 10/3, 10/4, 12/2, 16/1, 16/2, 16/3, 16/4, and 17 totally measuring 15 Acres 37 Guntas, situated at Bhattarahalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore.

*with further interest @ 18% p.a. as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred till the date of payment and / or realization. If the said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) fail to make payment to HDFC Limited as aforesaid, then HDFC Limited shall proceed against the above Secured Asset / Immovable Property under Section 13 (4) of the said Act and the applicable Rules entirely at the risk of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) as to the costs and consequences.

The said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) are prohibited under the said Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset / Immovable Property, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of HDFC Limited. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules made thereunder shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date: 25.07.2020
Place: Bangalore

For Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd
Sd/- Authorised Officer,

Karnataka Bank Ltd.

Your Family Bank Across India.

Asset Recovery Management Branch,
No.39/2, 2nd Floor, ASVNV Bhavan, Opp FKCCI Building, Kempegowda Road, Bengaluru-560009

Phone : 080-22955928(Gen)/22955929(CM)
E-mail : blr.arm@ktkbank.com
Website :www.karnatakabank.com
CIN :L85110KA1924PLC001128

SALE NOTICE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with provisio to rule 8(6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is here by given to public in general and in particular to Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/ charged to the secured Creditor, the **Physical Possession** of which have been taken by the Authorised Officer of Karnataka Bank Ltd, the Secured Creditor on **14.11.2019 & 30.11.2019,** will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is What is" and "Whatever there is" on **18.08.2020 & 19.08.2020,** for recovery of **₹ 3,01,10,622.50 (Rupees Three Crores One Lakh Ten Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Two and Paisa Fifty Only) under DPN A/c No.0977001000038301** along with future interest from **01.07.2020,** plus costs due to the **Karnataka Bank Ltd,Bengaluru - Banashankari III Stage Branch,** the Secured creditor from - **(1) M/s Mahaghar Properties Pvt Ltd,** Represented by its Directors - i) Mr.Purushothama Reddy K N ii) Mrs.Kanya Kumari K **(2) Mr.Purushothama Reddy K N S/o Mr. Narasimha Reddy, (3) Mrs.Kanya Kumari K, W/o Mr.Purushothama Reddy K, No.1,2 & 3 addressed at:** No.95, 1st Floor, IV Cross, Pai Layout, Hulimavu Main Road, Bannerughatta Road, Bengaluru-560076, **(4) Mr.Shivashankar B A S/o Mr.Anjanappa,** No.48, Chunchghatta Main Road, Konanakunte, Bengaluru-560062, being the borrowers/ guarantors/ mortgagors.

Reserve Price/Upset Price below which the property may not be sold are as follows:

Item No.	Description of Property	Reserve Price	Earnest Money deposit	Date & Time of Auction
1.	All that piece and parcel of 2BHK residential **Flat No.202,** Second Floor, "A"Block measuring 1005 sq ft (Super built up area) along with undivided share of 286 sq ft on the land with other rights and interest and 1 car parking space in the stilt floor in the building known as **"Mahaghar Vajra"** situated at property bearing BBMP Khata No.41, formed in Sy.No.41, Vajarahallli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru-560062 belonging to M/s Mahaghar Properties Pvt Ltd. **Boundaries of Property: East by:** Property belonging to Bangalore City Co-operative Housing Society Ltd; **West by:** 30 ft Road, **North by:** 40 ft Road, **South by:** 40 ft Road.	₹ 25,13,000.00	₹ 2,51,300.00	**18.08.2020 from 9.30 A.M to 9.50 A.M**
2.	All that piece and parcel of 2BHK residential **Flat No.304,** Third Floor, "A"Block measuring 1040 sq ft (Super built up area) along with undivided share of 296 sq ft on the land with other rights and interest and 1 car parking space in the stilt floor in the building known as **"Mahaghar Vajra"** situated at property bearing BBMP Khata No.41, formed in Sy.No.41, Vajarahallli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru-560062 belonging to M/s Mahaghar Properties Pvt Ltd **Boundaries of Property: East by:** Property belonging to Bangalore City Co-operative Housing Society Ltd; **West by:** 30 ft Road, **North by:** 40 ft Road, **South by:** 40 ft Road.	₹ 26,00,000.00	₹ 2,60,000.00	**18.08.2020 from 10.15 A.M to 10.35 A.M**
3.	All that piece and parcel of 2BHK residential **Flat No.312,** Third Floor, "A"Block measuring 945 sq ft (Super built up area) along with undivided share of 269 sq ft on the land with other rights and interest and 1 car parking space in the stilt floor in the building known as **"Mahaghar Vajra"** situated at property bearing BBMP Khata No.41, formed in Sy.No.41, Vajarahallli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru-560062 belonging to M/s Mahaghar Properties Pvt Ltd **Boundaries of Property: East by:** Property belonging to Bangalore City Co-operative Housing Society Ltd; **West by:**30 ft Road, **North by:** 40 ft Road, **South by:** 40 ft Road.	₹ 23,62,500.00	₹ 2,36,250.00	**18.08.2020 from 11.00 A.M to 11.20 A.M**
4.	All that piece and parcel of2BHK residential **Flat No.101,** First Floor, "B"Block measuring 1025 sq ft (Super built up area) along with undivided share of 297 sq ft on the land with other rights and interest and 1 car parking space in the stilt floor in the building known as **"Mahaghar Vajra"** situated at property bearing BBMP Khata No.41, formed in Sy.No.41, Vajarahallli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru-560062 belonging to M/s Mahaghar Properties Pvt Ltd. **Boundaries of Property: East by:** Property belonging to Bangalore City Co-operative Housing Society Ltd; **West by:**30 ft Road, **North by:** 40 ft Road, **South by:** 40 ft Road.	₹ 25,62,000.00	₹ 2,56,200.00	**18.08.2020 from 11.40 A.M to 12.00 P.M**
5.	All that piece and parcel of 3BHK residential **Flat No.112,** First Floor, "B"Block measuring 1535 sq ft (Super built up area) along with undivided share of 445 sq ft on the land with other rights and interest and 1 car parking space in the stilt floor in the building known as **"Mahaghar Vajra"** situated at property bearing BBMP Khata No.41, formed in Sy.No.41, Vajarahallli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru-560062 belonging to M/s Mahaghar Properties Pvt Ltd **Boundaries of Property: East by:** Property belonging to Bangalore City Co-operative Housing Society Ltd; **West by:** 30 ft Road, **North by:** 40 ft Road, **South by:** 40 ft Road.	₹ 38,38,000.00	₹ 3,83,800.00	**18.08.2020 from 12.15 P.M to 12.35 P.M**
6.	All that piece and parcel of 2BHK residential **Flat No.208,** Second Floor, "B"Block measuring 1055 sq ft (Super built up area) along with undivided share of 305 sq ft on the land with other rights and interest and 1 car parking space in the stilt floor in the building known as **"Mahaghar Vajra"** situated at property bearing BBMP Khata No.41, formed in Sy.No.41, Vajarahallli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru-560062 belonging to M/s Mahaghar Properties Pvt Ltd **Boundaries of Property: East by:** Property belonging to Bangalore City Co-operative Housing Society Ltd; **West by:** 30 ft Road, **North by:** 40 ft Road, **South by:** 40 ft Road.	₹ 26,38,000.00	₹ 2,63,800.00	**18.08.2020 from 1.00 P.M to 1.20 P.M**
7.	All that piece and parcel of 2BHK residential **Flat No.301,** Third Floor, "B"Block measuring 1025 sq ft (Super built up area) along with undivided share of 290 sq ft on the land with other rights and interest and d1 car parking space in the stilt floor in the building known as **"Mahaghar Vajra"** situated at property bearing BBMP Khata No.41, formed in Sy.No.41, Vajarahallli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru-560062 belonging to M/s Mahaghar Properties Pvt Ltd **Boundaries of Property: East by:** Property belonging to Bangalore City Co-operative Housing Society Ltd; **West by:** 30 ft Road, **North by:** 40 ft Road, **South by:** 40 ft Road.	₹ 25,63,000.00	₹ 2,56,300.00	**19.08.2020 from 9.30 A.M to 9.50 A.M**
8.	All that piece and parcel of 2BHK residential **Flat No.302,** Third Floor, "B"Block measuring 1355 sq ft (Super built up area) along with undivided share of 392 sq ft on the land with other rights and interest and 1 car parking space in the stilt floor in the building known as **"Mahaghar Vajra"** situated at property bearing BBMP Khata No.41, formed in Sy.No.41, Vajarahallli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru-560062 belonging to M/s Mahaghar Properties Pvt Ltd. **Boundaries of Property: East by:** Property belonging to Bangalore City Co-operative Housing Society Ltd; **est by:** 30 ft Road, **North by:** 40 ft Road, **South by:** 40 ft Road.	₹ 33,88,000.00	₹ 3,38,800.00	**19.08.2020 from 10.15 A.M to 10.35 A.M**
9.	All that piece and parcel of 2BHK residential **Flat No.306,** Third Floor, "B"Block measuring 1300 sq ft (Super built up area) along with undivided share of 377 sq ft on the land with other rights and interest and 1 car parking space in the stilt floor in the building known as **"Mahaghar Vajra"** situated at property bearing BBMP Khata No.41, formed in Sy.No.41, Vajarahallli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru-560062 belonging to M/s Mahaghar Properties Pvt Ltd. **Boundaries of Property: East by:** Property belonging to Bangalore City Co-operative Housing Society Ltd; **West by:** 30 ft Road, **North by:** 40 ft Road, **South by:** 40 ft Road.	₹ 32,50,000.00	₹ 3,25,000.00	**19.08.2020 from 11.00 A.M to 11.20 A.M**
10.	All that piece and parcel of 2BHK residential **Flat No.307,** Third Floor, "B"Block measuring 1120 sq ft (Super built up area) along with undivided share of 324 sq ft on the land with other rights and interest and 1 car parking space in the stilt floor in the building known as **"Mahaghar Vajra"** situated at property bearing BBMP Khata No.41, formed in Sy.No.41, Vajarahallli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru-560062 belonging to M/s Mahaghar Properties Pvt Ltd. **Boundaries of Property: East by:** Property belonging to Bangalore City Co-operative Housing Society Ltd; **West by:** 30 ft Road, **North by:** 40 ft Road, **South by:** 40 ft Road.	₹ 28,00,000.00	₹ 2,80,000.00	**19.08.2020 from 11.40 A.M to 12.00 P.M**
11.	All that piece and parcel of 2BHK residential **Flat No.308,** Third Floor, "B"Block measuring 1055 sq ft (Super built up area) along with undivided share of 305 sq ft on the land with other rights and interest and 1 car parking space in the stilt floor in the building known as **"Mahaghar Vajra"** situated at property bearing BBMP Khata No.41, formed in Sy.No.41, Vajarahallli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru-560062 belonging to M/s Mahaghar Properties Pvt Ltd. **Boundaries of Property: East by:** Property belonging to Bangalore City Co-operative Housing Society Ltd; **West by:** 30 ft Road, **North by:** 40 ft Road, **South by:** 40 ft Road.	₹ 26,40,000.00	₹ 2,64,000.00	**19.08.2020 from 12.15 P.M to 12.35 P.M**
12.	All that piece and parcel of 2BHK residential **Flat No.313,** Third Floor, "B"Block measuring 965 sq ft (Super built up area) along with undivided share of 279 sq ft on the land with other rights and interest and 1 car parking space in the stilt floor in the building known as **"Mahaghar Vajra"** situated at property bearing BBMP Khata No.41, formed in Sy.No.41, Vajarahallli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru-560062 belonging to M/s Mahaghar Properties Pvt Ltd. **Boundaries of Property: East by:** Property belonging to Bangalore City Co-operative Housing Society Ltd; **West by:** 30 ft Road, **North by:** 40 ft Road, **South by:** 40 ft Road.	₹ 24,13,000.00	₹ 2,41,300.00	**19.08.2020 from 1.00 P.M to 1.20 P.M**

(The borrower's/mortgagor's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset).
This Notice shall also serve as Notice under Sub Rule (6) of Rule (8) of Security Interest Enforcement Rules-2002 to the Borrower/Guarantors)
For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to link in Karnataka Bank's Website ie.,www.karnatakabank.com under the head "Mortgaged Assets for Sale".

The E-auction will be conducted through portal https://bankauctions.in/ on **18.08.2020 & 19.08.2020** at respective timings mentioned above with unlimited extension of 5 minutes.The intending bidders are required to register their name at https:// bankauctions.in/ and get the user Id and password free of cost and get training *online training i.e on E-auction (tentatively on- a) 17.08.2020 for the auction dated 18.08.2020, b) 18.08.2020 for the auction dated 19.08.2020)* from M/s 4 Closure, Mr.Sreekanth B (Asst.Manager), No.22, 5th Cross, Gurumahal Extension, Opp: Indian Hotel, K.G.Halli, Jalahalli (West), Bengaluru-560010 Mobile No:9515160061, E-mail: sreekanth@bankauctions.in

Date: 23.07.2020
Place: Bengaluru

For Karnataka Bank Ltd.
Chief Manager & Authorised Officer

YOUR GUIDE TO SPICY LIVING

INDULGE

Every Friday with
THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

The Supreme Court on Friday granted another six months to the Inquiry Commission to submit its final report on the encounter killing of four men accused of the gang rape and murder of a veterinarian in Hyderabad last year

TAMIL NADU INCHES CLOSER TO 2-LAKH MARK

State records 6,785 cases and 88 deaths; total number of cases at 1,99,749; 65,150 people tested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Chennai/Madurai

CONTINUING the trend, the State again recorded its highest single-day spike with 6,785 new Covid-19 positive cases, on Friday taking the total number of cases to 1,99,749, dangerously close to the two lakh mark. A total of 88 people succumbed to the infection on the day, taking the toll to 3,320.

Chennai alone recorded 1,299 positive cases and remained stable, while its neighbouring districts of Chengalpet, Kancheepuram and Tiruvallur recorded 419, 349 and 378 cases respectively. Virudhunagar topped the State list on Friday with 424 cases.

According to the media bulletin issued by the Directorate of Public Health, the State tested a whopping 65,150 samples from 63,182 people on the day. Also 6,504 people who recovered from the infection were discharged from hospitals.

Chief Secretary K Shanmugam on Friday held discussions with Collectors of all districts, except Chennai. The meeting assumes significance as the numbers of positive cases are going up in several districts and the current phase of lockdown is ending within a week.

Meanwhile, Health Minister C Vijayabaskar and Health Secretary J Radhakrishnan inspected oxygen tank construction work at Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital campus.

Nine out of the Chennai city corporation's 15 zones are now free of barricaded zones, as the number of containment zones in the city has dropped from 230 to 62 in the last one month.

Kodambakkam, which housed 134 containment zones following a huge spike in the number of positive cases during lockdown, now has just 22 containment zones.

The number of positive cases in Chennai recorded a 0.8 per cent increase in the last seven days, and the city's positivity rate as on Friday is 11.23 per cent.

People flout social distancing norms while standing in a queue to give their samples for Covid testing at a hospital in Tirupati on Friday | MADHAV K

Govt doesn't hide Covid death toll: Minister

Responding to DMK President M K Stalin's allegations against State Government that it hides the actual Covid death toll, Revenue Minister R B Udhayakumar, on Friday, said protocols laid down by the World Health Organisation (WHO) were being followed in declaring Covid deaths.

KASARAGOD REPORTS 106 CASES

Kasaragod: For the second time in three days, Kasaragod reported more than 100 positive cases of Covid-19 on Friday. District Medical Officer Dr A V Ramdas said 97 of the 106 people who tested positive contracted the disease through local transmission. Sources of infection of 21 persons are not known. Two patients came from abroad and seven persons arrived from other states.

AP sees single-day spike of 8,147 cases

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Vijayawada

THE Covid-19 tally in Andhra Pradesh crossed the 80,000 mark on Friday and now stands at 80,858 cases, with a record 8,147 cases, the highest single-day spike till date, reported in the last 24 hours. on Friday. With another 49 casualties, the toll touched 933, fast nearing the 1,000 mark.

Among the 13 districts, East Godavari continued to top with over 1,000 cases. A total 1,029 cases were reported in the last 24 hours. The district also topped the list among the casualties with another 11 in the district succumbing to the virus.

As per the media bulletin issued by the State Command Control Room on Friday morning, a total 48,114 samples samples were tested. The total number of samples tested in the state so far is 15,41,993.

After East Godavari district, which is leading the table in the number of new cases, Anantapur district with 984 cases stood second and Kurnool with 914 cases stood third, followed Visakhapatnam (898), West Godavari (807), Guntur (703), Chittoor (630), Kadapa (494), Srikakulam (374), Krishna (359), Prakasam (355), Vizianagaram (322) and Nellore (278).

East Godavari district, which now has 11,067 cases also leads the table in the total number of cases in the state. Kurnool with 9,615 stands second followed by Guntur district at third place with 8,800 cases.

NIA recovers ₹1 cr, gold from Swapna's lockers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kochi/ T'Puram

THE National Investigation Agency (NIA) has recovered around Rs 1 crore in cash and 1kg of gold from lockers of Thiruvananthapuram gold smuggling case accused Swapna Suresh. However, Swapna's counsel stated that she received the money and gold as gifts.

The agency, in its remand report filed at the NIA Court on the expiry of the custody of Swapna, Sandeep Nair and Sarith P S on Friday, stated that Swapna had confessed that proceeds of the gold smuggling were kept in bank lockers and invested as deposits in various banks. "Accordingly, Rs 36.5 lakh of Indian currencies kept in the safe deposit locker of Swapna maintained at Federal Bank's Statue branch in Thiruvananthapuram, Rs 64 lakh and 982.5 grams of gold ornaments kept in the safe locker maintained at the Thiruvananthapuram City branch of SBI were seized on Thursday. The place and lockers where the other proceeds of the crime have been kept/deposited by the accused are under investigation," the report stated.

However, Swapna's counsel said the money and gold were gifted by a sheikh during her marriage.

The NIA will inform the Enforcement Directorate and Income Tax Department about the seizure of currencies and gold to take necessary action in this regard.

The NIA has also arraigned K T Rameez of Malappuram as an accused in the case. Rameez who allegedly masterminded the smuggling was arrested by the Customs. The NIA will seek his custody soon.

Quit gracefully: Chennithala to CM Pinarayi

In an all-out attack, Opposition leader Ramesh Chennithala on Friday urged Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan to step down from the office gracefully now instead of waiting for the day when the NIA team questions him in the gold smuggling case.

A day after Pinarayi's former principal secretary, M Sivasankar, was questioned by the NIA, which also gave him a notice to appear before it at its Kochi office on Monday, Chennithala alleged that the chief minister is challenging the people of the state by pretending to be unaware of what is happening around him.

Talking to reporters here, Chennithala warned that the NIA will be moving to the Chief Minister's Office next.

Centre advises K'taka, eight other states to ramp up tests

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

UNION Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba on Friday reviewed the management of Covid-19 in Karnataka and eight other states which are driving the present spurt of the active caseload in the country and recommended urgently ramping up testing, strictly implementing containment plans, augmenting health infrastructure and ensuring effective clinical management.

Apart from Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal and Assam were issued the advisory. As part of Centre-state coordinated strategy for effective containment and management of the pandemic, a high-level virtual review meeting was chaired by Gauba along with the chief secretaries and health secretaries of the nine states.

In keeping with the 'Test Track Treat' strategy, the states were advised to ramp up testing with special focus on containment zones. Areas of concern with respect to low testing in certain states was highlighted and it was reiterated that sustained and aggressive testing was crucial for early identification of cases to prevent spread of infection.

Gauba stressed the need for prompt and proper delineation of containment zones as per guidelines of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and intensive contact tracing and house-to-house active case search within the containment zones to effectively break the chain of transmission, besides identifying buffer zones outside the containment zones and continued surveillance of SARI/ILI cases.

Gauba advised having a clear focus on health infrastructure availability, including the requisite number of beds, oxygen and ventilators across the state with implementation of clinical protocols ensuring the prescribed quality of care and seamless patient management. Effective ambulance management with zero refusal rate was also highlighted in the review meeting.

The Cabinet Secretary also emphasized on the imperative of keeping the fatality rates low. For this, mapping of high-risk population must be done, particularly the elderly and aged people and those with co-morbidities.

Apart from Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal and Assam were issued the Central advisory | EXPRESS

Sunlight, rum and now papad in Covid fight

ENS & AGENCIES @ New Delhi

EVEN as researchers and pharma companies are racing to develop a vaccine for Covid-19, Union Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Arjun Ram Meghwal has come up with a simple solution: eating papad.

In a video where he is seen holding up a pack of the 'Bhabhiji' brand of papad, the minister claimed that eating it will create antibodies in the human body that will help fight the coronavirus. "This Bhabhiji Papad has come out in the market in line with Atma Nirbhar Bharat, which has edible elements that can help create antibodies," Meghwal says.

While there's no scientific evidence presented by the minister as to how the papad ingredients can help create Covid-fighting antibodies, the Bikaner-based company claims that the product has Giloy (Tinospora Cordifolia) and other immunity-boosting ingredients like turmeric, black pepper, black cumin, tulsi leaves, hing (asafoetida), moong dal, urad dal, salt, saji and spices.

The video went viral soon after on social media, with many questioning the minister's claims.

In early February, Union Minister Ramadas Athawale had led a group of people chanting 'Go Corona, Go'. Another Union Minister Ashwini Kumar Choubey, had advocated "absorbing sunlight" to ward off the virus.

More recently, Congress councillor from Ullal in Dakshina Kannada, Ravichandra Gatti, had advocated rum and half-fried eggs to fight the coronavirus.

'People are back to home remedies'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"WE HAVE run out of stock of piper. We tried to get it in the local market, but it is not available there too. Ashwagandha and Jeshtamadhu in root form are in great demand for preparing kashaya at home," Ratnakar said. Many people are consulting ayurvedic doctors on how to prepare kashaya powders at home, while some depend on traditional makers of kashaya powder. "The powder we prepare has Ashwagandha, turmeric, baje, piper, black pepper, cumin seeds, dry ginger and other spices," said Anantha, who makes kashaya powder. "Now, people are back to relying on home remedies. Many have started preparing the powder on their own, which is a good trend."

Karwar Airport gets green signal

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

BUSINESS and tourism in Uttara Kannada is set to receive a major boost as the state cabinet gave a green signal to go ahead with an airport in Karwar district, on Thursday. It was originally proposed by the Navy to build an airport for their fighter aircraft and has now been expanded so that civil aircraft can be operated from here too.

The site for the proposed airport is on 97.1 acres of land in Ankola Taluk between Alageri and Bhaviker villages.

Kapil Mohan, Principal Secretary, Infrastructure Development Department told *The New Indian Express*, "We have spoken to the Navy to allow us to operate passenger flights from here. They have agreed for the development of a civil enclave with the operation of 70-seater ATR-72 flights only. In the future, the runway will be expanded to 3,000 metres to handle wide-bodied aircraft like B737 and A320."

The site is adjacent to NH-66 and Konkan Railway Line and this will help in creating a transport infrastructure hub here, Mohan said. The site is also near the Belkeri Port, which will be developed as a major port in the future.

District-in-charge Minister Shivram Hebbar told *The New Indian Express*, "Employment and business in the region will get a major boost."

Speaking of an improved air connectivity scenario in North Karnataka, Mohan said both Kalaburagi and Bidar have airports presently and Vijayapura, Shivamogga and Karwar will come up with it soon.

When the airport gets operational, Karwar will serve as a counter magnet to Goa, the Principal Secretary said. "People would be able to visit popular tourist attractions like Dandeli, Attiveri Bird Sanctuary, Gokarna, Murudeshwar, Om Beach, Yana, and Kudle Beach easily. Disaster management and medical emergencies too can be handled better with air connectivity in place," he added.

The work will start by mid 2021 and the airport is expected to be in place by 2024.

> *We have spoken to the Navy to allow us to operate passenger flights from here. They have agreed for the development of a civil enclave with the operation of 70-seater ATR-72 flights only. n the future, the runway will be expanded to 3,000 metres to handle wide-bodied aircraft like B737 and A320*
>
> Kapil Mohan, Principal Secretary, Infrastructure Development Department

HUBLI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly Owned Govt. of Karnataka Undertaking)
Corporate Office, Navanager, P.B. Road, Hubli-580 025
Tel. No. 0836-2222535, Fax No. 0836-2324307
Website: www.hescom.co.in E-mail ID: seeit@hescom.co.in
eeit@hescom.co.in CIN : U31401KA2002SGC030437
No: HESCOM/SEE-IT&MT/EEIT1/AEEIT1/2020-21/cys-1305
Date : 24.07.2020

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E procurement portal only)

The Superintending Engineer (Ele), IT & MT, HESCOM, Hubballi invites tender in two parts (Part –I: Techno-Commercial Bid and Part-II : Price Bid) through e-procurement portal for the following works

Sl.No.	Bid Indent No.	Tender Description
1	HESCOM/SEE (IT&MT)/EEIT-1/ TRM/2020-21	Implementation of web based Total Revenue Management (TRM) system in Non RAPDRP areas of HESCOM

For detailed notification regarding the bid enquiry can be obtained by logging in to the website **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**. on or after **27-07-2020** @ 16.00 Hrs.
Sd/- Superintending Engineer (EI)
No.DIPR/DWD/2020-21/224/MCA (IT&MT), HESCOM, Hubballi.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
DISTRICT HOSPITAL, DHARWAD
PHONE NO: 0836-2741277, 0836-2748374
E-mail ID: dsdharwad-hfws@karnataka.gov.in
dsdharwad@gmail.com
No. DHDWD/SUPPLY/COVID/TENDER/38/ 2020-21, Date: 24-07-2020

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

The District Surgeon District Hospital, Killa Road, Dharwad Invites tenders from eligible tenderers in two cover system for supply of Medical Equipments for COVID ICU and LAB. Through e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka **(website:https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in Tender No: IND4125)** tender submission on or before **04-08-2020 up to 5:00 PM** as per KTPP Act. 1999 & 2000.

Tender document & other details may be downloaded from above mentioned website.

For further clarification please contact District Surgeon, District Hospital Dharwad.

District Surgeon,
District Hospital, Dharwad.

SRI JAYADEVA INSTITUTE OF CARDIOVASCULAR SCIENCES & RESEARCH
(Govt. of Karnataka - Reg. Autonomous Institute)
Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru-560 069.
Ph.: +91-80-22977666/276/216/217/433 TELE FAX:080-26534625/477
e-mail: director@jayadevacardiology.com/sjicrprojectengineer@gmail.com

SHORT TERM e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences & Research, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru invites tender for the supply of following items in two bid system from eligible tenderers through e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka:

Sl. No.	Tender Notification No. & Date	Particulars
1	SJIC&R/TS/38/2020-21 dt. 24-07-2020	Providing, Fabricating and Construction of Patient's Attendees Waiting Lounge using M.S. Structures & Galvalume Iron Sheet Roof on existing sump tank at SJIC&R, Mysuru.
2	SJIC&R/TS/39/2020-21 dt. 24-07-2020	Providing, Fabricating and construction of Patient's Attendees Waiting Lounge using M.S. Structures & Galvalume iron Sheet Roof at SJIC&R, Bengaluru.
3	SJIC&R/TS/40/2020-21 dt. 24-07-2020	Providing, Fabricating and Construction of Shelter to Car Parking lot using M.S. Structures & Galvalume Iron Sheet Roof parallel to K.K Road at SJIC&R Hospital Premises, K.R.S. Road, Mysuru.

1. The tenderers can download the documents from **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in from 27-07-2020** and the last date for submission of completed tenders through e-portal is **10-08-2020 upto 4-00 PM.**
2. Date of Pre-bid meeting: **04-08-2020 at 11-30 AM.**
3. Date of Technical Bid opening: **11-08-2020 at 4-00 PM.**
4. EMD: as mentioned in the tender document
5. For further details, please visit our website: **www.jayadevacardiology.com**
6. The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to accept/reject/cancel the tender partially or fully without assigning any reason/s at any stage of processing.

Sd/-
Chief Administrative Officer.

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
KNNL,No.4 BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi No: EE:KNNL/ No.4/BDVT/PB-4/Man power supply Tender Notification No: 13/2020-21 Date: 15.07.2020

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL)

Percentage Tenders by e-procurement portal in the prescribed form is invited by the undersigned on behalf of Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore from the eligible Contractors. Tender for the works of Head of Account 2701 Bhadra, works. The approximate cost of amoumt put to tender is Rs. **73.74** lakhs to **103.54** Lakhs. The amount of EMD is Rs. **74,000**/- to Rs. **1,03,600**/- (by e-portal) contactors can access and submission of completed e-tendering documents from **21.07.2020** to **29.07.2020** upto **17.30** hours in the website **(http:// www.eproc .karnataka .gov.in)**. Technical Bid will be opened on **30.07.2020** at **17.31** hours. After obtaining approval of Techinical Bid from authority, the financial bid will be opened. For more conditions and details visit website **(http:// www.eproc .karnataka .gov.in).** OR undersigned in all working days during office hours on telephone no **08282-271063**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
KNNL, No.4 BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi
DIPR/SMG/No.86-07/zenkar/2020-21

EDITORIAL

"We absolutely must leave room for doubt or there is no progress and there is no learning. There is no learning without having to pose a question. And a question requires doubt"

Richard Feynman

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

THE TIME FOR A FRESH FISCAL STIMULUS IS NOW

India's Chief Economic Advisor K V Subramanian's fresh take on fiscal stimulus is perplexing. He acknowledges the need for a further fiscal push, but prefers to sit out until a Covid-19 vaccine comes through and when recovery begins. As several economists, Keynesians or otherwise would agree, fiscal stimulus' best act isn't during booms but economic busts and hence countries are going the whole hog. The 28-member European Union, despite bitter differences, just signed a $826 billion deal, of which about half comprises grants that countries need not repay.

In contrast, India's first tranche of ₹21 lakh crore had little by way of fiscal stimulus. It was presumed the government was holding up aces in reserve, but a further delay can turn what is now a growth capital into a bailout package with the latter having undesirable consequences. As Keynes noted, master economists must study the present in the light of the past for the purposes of the future. They must defeat the dark forces of time and ignorance. But in hindsight, just when the government needed to act during critical moments like the NBFC crisis, rescuing MSMEs and banks, it persuaded itself that the timing wasn't right and the proof of its delayed action is evident.

Time is an absolute in economic theory and influences the cost of money and thereby the value of goods and services. Consider the price of gold now and last year and you get the picture. If you apply it in an institutional setting, the element of time is matchless, something policymakers need to master and avoid procrastination. Economists' finest hour also comes during extreme uncertainties like now, when decision-making hinges on a game of skill and chance. Subramanian, a votary of behavioural economics, knows the consequences of a timely fiscal push and how government expenditure or the lack of it can run or ruin the real economy including production, employment and savings. So the government must overcome the 'Principal of Unripe Time,' where for critical decisions, now is never the moment and then suddenly it's too late.

GIVING TOP PRIORITY TO INDUSTRIAL SAFETY

It is an utter mess—this was the broad conclusion of the high-power committee that probed the Visakhapatnam gas leak on the existing industrial safety and environment regulatory systems in the country. In its voluminous report, the panel dealt not only with lapses at LG Polymers but also the ecosystem that has been allowing accidents in factories to happen at regular intervals. For instance, as per a recent report of the factories department, a staggering 138 fatal accidents occurred in various industrial units between 2012 and 2020 in Visakhapatnam district alone. A little over a month after the gas leak, a blast at Sainor Life Sciences Pvt Ltd at the Pharma City in Parawada claimed a life. Across the country, almost 30 such incidents have occurred since the lockdown was withdrawn.

If safety isn't taken seriously at least now, there is no stopping these tragedies. A piecemeal approach will not do. There are many aspects to the safety issue but the glaring problem is the existence of too many Acts and parallel bodies responsible for enforcing the same, creating confusion. We have the Factories Act, Explosives Act, Fire Services, etc., which deal with different types of rules in petro and chemical factories. For environmental clearance, we have the State Pollution Control Boards and the Central bodies, which often appear to be working at cross purposes. The recommendation of the panel to have a single nodal agency, the Factories Safety Board, makes eminent sense. Similarly, its call for ensuring a single line of monitoring in case of environment-related issues too is sensible.

Inadequate training for contract workers, failure in following emergency protocols and overall, the absence of a culture where safety is given top priority are among the other issues plaguing our industrial units. The onus is not just on the governments but also the companies. The task is cut out and remedial action should start from the top, which is the Central government. As we pointed out earlier in these columns, it must operationalise the National Plan on Chemical Safety without delay. It may take a leaf out of the European Union's book.

A drastic overhaul in educational budgets and policies is required to get the benefits of the bulge in the working-age population that will last till 2055

HOW NOT TO WASTE THE DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND OF INDIA

AMIT BANDRE

PROSENJIT DATTA
Senior business journalist

For Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government, the much-hyped demographic dividend has turned into a nightmare. The problem was visible even in his first term. But eight quarters of continuous decline in GDP growth since March 2018 followed by a pandemic-induced lockdown that is pushing the economy into recession has brought the extent of the problem to the fore.

Instead of contributing to economic growth, a big chunk of the new entrants to the labour force is adding to our unemployment statistics. With 12 million people being added to the working-age population annually, but not enough job opportunities, it requires quick and effective short-term, medium-term and long-term policy interventions.

While the working-age population in India has been growing since the early 2000s, it is in 2018 that the number of people in the age bracket of 15-65 became larger than the number of people in the dependent age group (below 14 and above 65 years of age). This working-age population that is larger than the dependent age population is expected to remain till 2055.

As several studies have pointed out, a bulge in the working-age population or "demographic dividend" provides a great foundation for a sustained period of high growth. Several Asian nations—Japan, Thailand, South Korea, and more recently China—had taken advantage of the demographic dividend in their countries to grow rapidly for long periods. For India, the demographic dividend is coming at an opportune time when the population in large parts of the world is ageing.

Initially, things seemed to be running according to the script, especially starting in the late 1990s, as several things came together. Economic reforms opened up many sectors, bringing in capital and creating new jobs. Technology advances and globalisation threw up new opportunities like IT services and IT enabled services. A new generation of educated, English-speaking workforce came into the labour market at exactly the right time, creating perfect conditions for a sustained period of high growth from 1999 to 2010, despite the global financial crisis following the collapse of Lehman Brothers in 2008.

In the past decade, domestic policy missteps have seen the Indian economy performing erratically. Yet, there was always the conviction that the demographic dividend would play out despite temporary setbacks. When Prime Minister Modi talked about a $5 trillion economy by 2025, many commentators felt that the target was easily achievable. The new entrants to the workforce would add both production and consumption heft to the economy, boosting GDP growth to at least 8% plus, if not double digits.

The error was in not accounting for the education and quality of the people joining the workforce. All countries that have reaped the demographic dividends had invested heavily in education and skilling in the decades leading up to it. An educated workforce is both more productive and more capable of taking advantage of new opportunities. Education spends and reforms typically show up after a lag of a decade or more as a new generation of better educated and skilled youth join the workforce.

> Many believed the new entrants to the workforce would add both production and consumption heft to the economy ... The error was in not accounting for the education of the people joining the workforce. In India, a persistent problem that companies have complained of is the lack of educated and skilled manpower

In India, a persistent problem that companies have complained of is the lack of educated and skilled manpower. This is true across industries and sectors. The common issue that crops up is that a large number of engineering, management or just plain graduates are incapable of being hired.

While successive governments have paid lip service to the cause of education, the initiatives and the budgets have always been too little and too haphazard. India spends about 3% of its GDP on education—though the target has been 6% for quite some time. An IMD Business School report showed that India stands at the 62nd spot in terms of public expenditure per student and fares badly in measures of quality of education like student-teacher ratio and others.

While on paper, India's literacy rate has crossed 74%, several studies have shown that over 50% of students lack basic literacy and numeracy skills even after five years in school. The Union government's focus on higher education instead of basic schooling has also played a role. The other issue is the regulatory system, which is rather lax. This allows a huge number of sub-standard schools, colleges, management and technical institutions to flourish.

If the government wants to reap the benefits of the demographic dividend, it will need to completely refocus its education policies and work closely with states to fix both primary and secondary education (Education is in the concurrent list).

In the short term, it needs to open up the education sector to attract global players while revamping the capability and powers of education regulators and boards. In the medium and long run, it needs to increase public expenditure on education on a sustained basis and use technology to impart it more efficiently.

The coronavirus pandemic has given a huge fillip to technology-enabled education. Technology also allows the government to rethink the education system and use its resources more efficiently and standardise learning. There is still time. But unless the right policies are put in place and the right budgets committed to education, India will miss the opportunity presented by a huge young population entering the workforce.

(prosaicview@gmail.com)

SAVING BOTH LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS

VINAY SAHASRABUDDHE
National Vice President of the BJP, President, ICCR, and Rajya Sabha MP

It has been almost four months now and we have become accustomed to living in pandemic times. More than anything else, it is the uncertainty that is most scary. While there is no immediate solution to end this, the wisest way is to stay away from both paranoia and a gung-ho approach. Paranoia is like slow poison whereas an approach to embrace absolute normalcy carelessly is suicidal, to say the least. Hence, we must strive for a fine balance, ensuring a slow but certain return to normalcy in an extremely calibrated manner.

The first thing to understand while reviewing our struggle against this pandemic is the complex nature of this calamity. Unlike floods, earthquakes or famines, this calamity knows no time limit. Besides, one can't expect it to be confined to a geographical area. Hence, routine ways of dealing with disasters are not entirely relevant here. The key to success is in ensuring an enlightened participation of citizens, making it a war fought together by the government and the people.

Right in the beginning, due to the monitoring of the central command of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), things were handled with a much-needed decisive approach. With a successful day-long lockdown trial run in the form of the Janata Curfew on March 22, PM Narendra Modi cultivated the collective mind of the nation. When the first lockdown was announced, people realised the gravity of the challenge. It was clear that without the relentless efforts of the medical and healthcare fraternity, police and other security forces, as well as people handling sanitation and conservancy, our efforts to fight Covid-19 cannot be a success. Again, in response to an appeal by the PM, people enthusiastically came forward and expressed their gratitude to all these true corona warriors who perform their duties braving serious threats to their life. Remarkably, right in these initial phases, India also rushed to the help of several countries, small and big, and extended necessary assistance in the form of pharmaceuticals. Mass production of masks and face covers as well as large-scale procurement of ventilators also started in right earnestness.

Later, while lockdown conditions were relaxed phase by phase, people also started working towards saving both lives as well as livelihoods. This was the time when people were expecting the government to come forward and provide some succour. With the multitude of packages announced and concessions extended, the Centre took several right steps in the right direction. Deeply conscious of the need to change the popular outlook towards such challenges, PM Modi, in his own inimitable style of urging people to turn a calamity into an opportunity, announced the Atmanirbhar Bharat campaign. He also urged people to be vocal about local, underscoring the core of his philosophy of engaging with the people through dialogue and emotional appeal.

With Unlock 1, in the spirit of federalism, the role of state governments increased as many things were understandably left to their discretion. But today, in states like Maharashtra, West Bengal and a few others, the picture is hazy. More than the pandemic, the utter confusion on the part of the administration is causing great harm. People wonder whether lockdowns can save their lives any further, with clueless CMs at the helm of affairs. Many chief ministers, including the Maharashtra CM, seem to forget that the lockdown is neither a medicine nor a magic wand; it is just an exceptional administrative measure. Imposing local lockdowns at the drop of a hat or revoking the same cannot lead us to a lasting solution if they are implemented sans homework and, more importantly, without taking people into confidence.

> With Unlock 1, in the spirit of federalism, the role of state governments increased as many things were understandably left to their discretion. But many CMs seem to forget that the lockdown is not a magic wand; it is just an exceptional administrative measure. Imposing local lockdowns at the drop of a hat or revoking the same cannot lead us to a lasting solution if implemented sans homework and without taking people into confidence

While everyone shares the concerns of the Centre with regards to the urgent need of preventing the spread of Covid-19, some junior leaders in Maharashtra had loudly spoken about 'Mission Begin Again'. Naturally, all had started preparing for this new beginning when all of a sudden, city satraps started announcing a lockdown again, adding to the prevailing atmosphere of uncertainty.

Many believe that this re-lockdown just a few days after the declaration of Begin Again, or Unlock 2, smacks of utter confusion at various levels of the administration. It is believed that these are decisions taken arbitrarily and they can be described as a case of conveniently playing it safe. Let's not treat lockdowns as a way to create an impression that the government is taking all possible measures. Due to this ad hocism and inconsistency, not just traders and shopkeepers, but many other professionals, industrialists, entrepreneurs and common citizens are greatly inconvenienced, leading to widespread frustration.

Having administered the heavy dose of lockdown multiple times, the Maharashtra government would be better advised to focus on a more practicable six-point formula based on the 'back to routine, with caution and discipline' principle. This would ensure both saving lives as well as livelihoods. These six points could be as follows:

1) Strict enforcement of personal distancing and wearing of masks should be ensured at all public places, along with provisions of stringent fine. Provisions should be made for further punishment in case of repeat offenders. 2) A rule to carry hand sanitisers whenever a person moves out of home and stringent fine for violators. 3) Framing of strict rules for maintaining physical distancing while using public and private vehicles, again with provisions for stringent fine. 4) All kinds of shops should be allowed to operate as per routine in order to avoid crowding in limited hours. For big shops, where customers enter inside, there must be strict adherence to the rules of personal distancing, masks and handwashing. 5) Open air plays an important role in preventing Covid-19 spread and hence public gardens, temples and open gyms should be allowed to operate with strict adherence to personal distancing and wearing of masks.

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MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Ending Pondy dispute

This is with reference to the editorial *Entirely avoidable Pondy turf war* (July 24). The lieutenant governor should abide by last year's Supreme Court ruling that upheld the Madras HC verdict which said that the L-G should not interfere in the day-to-day activities of the government.

Haribandhu Panigrahi, Tarbha

More streams for women

It is heartening to hear that women officers in the Army will now be entitled for permanent commission in as many as 10 streams. (*More doors now open for women officers in Army*, July 24). This will ensure gender equality and allow women officers to prove their worth.

C V Aravind, Bengaluru

Equality in Army

The decision to grant permanent commission to women officers in more Army streams is laudable. This decision will lead to more equality.

Vinod Narayanan, Thiruvananthapuram

Waterlogging in Hyderabad

This is reference to *Heavy rains throw life out of gear* (July 24). This occurs in Hyderabad whenever there is a heavy downpour irrespective of the season. The newspapers highlight the situation but nothing is done by the authorities to mitigate the effects except cleaning the drains. Waterlogging is not due to clogged drains but due to their inadequate capacity and lack of adequate uncovered surface for percolation of rainwater into the ground.

O Prasada Rao, Hyderabad

Smuggling & CAA protests

This is with reference to *Gold smuggled into state funded anti-CAA protests? Probe is on* (July 24). The probe into whether the money made by gold smuggling was used to fund protests across the country against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act is welcome.

K R Parvathy, email

Not equal before law

This is with reference to *Actors face heat for lockdown violation* (July 24). While Tamil actors Vemal and Soori were fined ₹2,000 and issued a warning for violating lockdown protocols in Kodaikanal, two traders in Sathankulam were arrested for the same offence (and tortured to death in police custody). Who says everyone is equal before law?

P G Menon, Chennai

Centre's false claims

The article *Why denying the truth will hurt India* (July 24) is excellent. It brought out some facts and figures about the Modi government's false claims. Telling the truth and disseminating it to the public is where the opposition has failed miserably.

Sidhique K M, Bengaluru

Blaming PM makes no sense

Blaming the PM over the lockdown doesn't make sense. The PM was not misleading people, but only motivating them. The lockdowns helped India in minimising the damage. And while comparing Chinese 'prosperity' and Indian poverty, the author ignores measures such as population control that China's dictators resorted to.

P Mangalachandran, Kannur

Fake news and social media

The article was insightful. It's a fact that social media is playing a major role in spreading half truths and fake news among the public.

Rihana K, Bengaluru

Containing Covid in Kerala

This is with reference to your editorial *Kerala's Covid defence is falling apart* (July 24). Though Kerala is still in a relatively good position as far the pandemic is concerned, the lacklustre attitude of the state government in containing Covid after lockdown relaxations were eased has created a problem. Conducting entrance tests for professional courses in these times does not make sense and some students and parents have now tested positive.

R Pichumani, Kumbakonam

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Rahul Gandhi @RahulGandhi
I kept warning them on Covid19 and the economy. They rubbished it. Disaster followed. I keep warning them on China. They're rubbishing it.

Baijayant Jay Panda @PandaJay
Just saw a sitting CM...try to intimidate the constitutional authority of Governor with a threat of violence!

Mayawati @Mayawati
In another incident of Jungle Raj in UP. The body of Sanjeet Yadav was thrown into a river by his kidnappers in Kanpur, which is sad.

'Education, like media, is storytelling in some form'

FOR all those who have been curious about why ***Ronnie Screwvala****, the pioneer of cable television in India, spent 15 -20 years in the media industry and then moved on to co-found EdTech start-up upGrad in 2015, the entrepreneur and philanthropist let us in on the answer during a conversation with* ***Prabhu Chawla, Editorial Director, The New Indian Express,*** *and author and senior journalist* ***Kaveree Bamzai****, on TNIE's Expressions, a series of live webcasts with people who matter.*

"Education, like the media, is storytelling. Because, at the end of the day, you will remember those two professors who taught you because of the way they taught you. And at the university level, you will remember the case studies. It's all storytelling, in one form or the other," said the 57-year-old lucidly on why upGrad clicks.

Matter of growth

Going on to talk about how his EdTech venture has grown by leaps and bounds owing to the lockdown, Screwvala shares, "Today, we conduct online classes for over 1,600 students at a given time and they are lively and interactive. The feedback system is much faster online. For example, if there is a student who watches one video five times, our counsellor notices it and gives them a call to check if they need help with understanding the lesson."

He estimates that the growth their platform was expected to hit in four years will be achieved in 18 months. The deep learning courses are offered mostly for working professionals who don't have to quit their jobs anymore if they wish to up-skill themselves.

Talking about the most popular courses on upGrad, the entrepreneur says, "About two years back, it was all about Data Science and today, it still is. An MBA in Data Analytics will get one much more traction than an MBA in HR or Marketing," He also lists Product and Digital Marketing and MBA as their most popular courses. He reveals that they will launch a soft skills platform soon, which will teach one everything from how to tackle the first day in office to office politics.

"This is because often employees tell us that the person is smart, but they can't speak up confidently in a room. So, soft skills are an important part of learning," he explains.

Helping out rural India

Talking about the non-profit organisation Swades Foundation he started in 2013 for rural empowerment, Screwvala informs that they work with 2,200 villages and have been working on reverse migration. Initially, migrants were reluctant to go back to their villages stigmatised by the thought of being termed a failure, but today, the pandemic has erased that.

"Now that they have gone back, between agriculture, entrepreneurship and animal husbandry, there is a lot to be done," says Screwvala and the foundation is helping them with all three.

A BMC medic takes blood sample from a Covid-19 patient in Mumbai | PTI

ICMR set to undertake antibody study to assess immunological response

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @ New Delhi

THE Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is set to undertake a crucial research project to assess the immunological response to Covid-19 amid concerns that antibodies against SARS CoV 2 may not be long-lasting.

Through the exercise, scientists will also try to examine at what level of infection prevalence can herd immunity be expected in any area. For the project, ICMR scientists will collaborate with researchers at the AIIMS-Delhi where a cohort of recovered Covid-19 patients will be studied over a period of time to assess their antibody levels and its role in coming months. Sources told this newspaper that an ICMR expert group on surveillance and epidemiology has approved the proposal and a protocol for the study is now being designed.

"We need to examine whether the population, at least, in high exposure areas, is any closer to herd immunity which will depend on the type of antibodies produced," a source at the ICMR said.

"For example, are they neutralising antibodies? And how long will they last or how quickly might they wane?... "We could do these studies on people at least in containment zones with high exposure levels," he added.

> **We need to examine whether the population, at least, in high exposure areas, is any closer to herd immunity which will depend on the type of antibodies produced**
> ICMR official

Experts explained that immune memory appears critical for both herd immunity — whether from natural infections or the vaccines.

"So far, what we have understood is that while antibodies that Covid-19 pathogen triggers do not last long, it also spurs T-Cell memory response which is a good thing for both herd immunity and development of vaccines," said virologist Dr J Muliyil.

A recent and first of its kind longitudinal study — in which subjects are observed over a period of time without any intervention - immune response of over 90 patients and healthcare workers who had recovered from the disease — was published from the UK. It was seen that antibodies that can destroy the virus peaked about three weeks after the onset of symptoms and then dropped rather swiftly.

The blood test of the recovered patients also revealed that while 60 per cent of people showed very potent antibody response at the height of their battle with the virus, only 17 per cent retained the same potency three months later. Also, antibody levels declined as much as 23-fold over the period and in some cases, there were no detectable antibodies at all.

'Guv is bound by cabinet's advice'

Experts say Rajasthan governor should call Assembly session to conduct the floor test

KANU SARDA @ New Delhi

EVEN as the political crisis in Rajasthan getting murkier, constitutional experts have opined that the governor has to abide by the advice of the council of ministers, and will have to call the session of the assembly according to the constitution so that the ruling government can prove its majority.

Former secretary general and constitutional expert P D T Achary said: "The governor is a constitutional authority, and his role is to summon, dissolve and provoke the House, and nothing beyond that as far as proceedings of the House are concerned."

"If the governor has any doubts about how the proceedings of the House would be conducted in times of the pandemic, he can always seek the clarification from the government and give a nod to conduct the House as sought by the council of ministers," Achary added.

He said the powers of a governor and his/her role is categorically defined in the constitution, and he will have to abide by the same under all circumstances.

Echoing the views, senior Supreme Court advocate Menaka Guruswamy said: The nine-judge bench ruling in the S R Bommai case makes it clear that the governor must call the session of the House so that government's confidence can be tested on the floor."

The ruling made it clear that the floor of the assembly is the only forum that should test the majority of the government of the day and not the subjective opinion of the governor.

If the governor is worried about how the proceedings of the House will take place then he can seek the clarity from the chief minister and maybe, a virtual house can be called, but not calling the house or sitting at the request is not in the domain of the governor at all."

In April, the Supreme Court too had clarified that position, upholding the governor's call for a trust vote in Madhya Pradesh, which led to the fall of the Kamal Nath-led Congress government.

A two-judge bench comprising Justices D Y Chandrachud and Hemant Gupta had said the governor, in extraordinary circumstances, can call for a floor test, even when the disqualification proceedings of the MLAs are pending before the Speaker, if the governor objectively considers that the government is on shaky ground.

Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot along with Congress leaders outside the Raj Bhawan in Jaipur | PTI

R'than cops seek CCTV footage from 2 resorts

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

AFTER several failed raid attempts in the past few days, the Rajasthan Police has issued notices to two Haryana resorts seeking CCTV camera footage from July 10 onwards to establish whether they were housing 18 rebel Congress MLAs led by suspended deputy chief minister Sachin Pilot. Sources, however, said the resorts are not likely to submit the details to the police as the managements argue that they do not fall under the jurisdiction of Rajasthan.

The sources said the Rajasthan Police has served notices on ITC Grand Bharat at Tauru in Nuh and Best Western Country Inn in Manesar, directing both the resorts to submit the footage as well the booking records from July 10 onwards. In case any room is booked in the name of suspended Congress MLA Bhanwar Lal Sharma, the resorts has to provide the details of check-in and check-out timings, payments, identity proof and parking.

The SOG of the Rajasthan Police reportedly has enough evidence to establish that Sharma was staying at Country Inn and then shifted to ITC Grand for a few hours.

Day's drama

10:46 AM
Rajasthan High Court accepts rebel MLAs' plea to make the Centre a party to the case

11:35 AM
High Court orders "status quo" to be maintained on Speaker C P Joshi's notice to rebel Congress MLAs, including former deputy CM Sachin Pilot

11:55 AM
HC defers judgment on the case filed by Pilot, 18 other rebel MLAs till the Supreme Court decides on the matter

1 PM
CM Ashok Gehlot addresses the media; asks for Special Assembly session to be convened so that he can prove majority on the floor of the House

3:15 PM
Gehlot, other Congress MLAs reach Raj Bhawan to meet Governor Kalraj Mishra; sit in protest on the premises to demand that Assembly session be convened

4 PM
Governor steps out to meet the MLAs

6 PM
Gehlot speaks to media again, hopes governor does not "come under pressure" and calls Assembly session

7.30 PM
Gehlot's MLAs end protest at Raj Bhawan after Governor's assurance on calling Assembly session

Maintain status quo, HC tells Speaker

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

IN a major relief to the rebel camp led by sacked deputy chief minister Sachin Pilot, the High Court on Friday directed the Rajasthan Assembly Speaker to maintain "status quo" on the disqualification notices issued to the 19 rebel MLAs.

The High Court also deferred its judgment till the Supreme Court decides on the questions of law.

The High Court framed 13 questions on which arguments would take place once the matter is heard at length.

One of the questions is: Does the Speaker's notice violate the essence of democracy and intend to throttle voices of dissent that seek a leadership change within the party?

In a further setback to the Gehlot government, the High Court in a separate order also included the Union of India in the case.

The application for impleadment argues that the constitutional amendment is under challenge, so the Union of India is an essential party. The judgment comes as a huge relief to the Pilot camp since the Speaker will not be able to take any action on the notices he served to the rebel MLAs till both the courts give their verdicts.

The Rajasthan High Court was expected to pass an order on a petition of Sachin Pilot and 18 other MLAs who had challenged the disqualification notices served on them, but it asked for status quo.

The Supreme Court will hear the case on a daily basis from July 27, and depending on its verdict, the High Court will give its judgment.

GUIDELINES

I-Day: No mass gatherings at events, says govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Centre has issued detailed guidelines for Independence Day celebrations at the state, district and panchayat levels, making it clear that authorities should not allow large gatherings and advised webcasting of the ceremony in view of the coronavirus pandemic.

In an advisory, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) asked authorities to honour Covid-19 warriors like doctors, health and sanitation workers on the occasion as a recognition of their noble service in the fight against the pandemic. Some people who recovered from the infection might also be invited, the MHA suggested.

"All programmes should be organised in a way that large congregation of people is avoided and technology is used in a best possible manner for celebration befitting the occasion," the advisory said. The events organised could be webcast in order to reach out people at large, who are not able to participate, according to centre's advisory.

SC seeks Centre's reply on plea seeking 'country of origin' tag on e-retail items

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Friday agreed to hear a plea seeking direction to the Centre to formulate a law mandating all e-commerce platforms such as Amazon and Flipkart to display 'country of origin' on the products they sell so as to allow consumers to make informed decisions.

A bench of Chief Justice of India S A Bobde and Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian issued notice to the Centre and sought its response.

The plea refers to influx of junk from China via e-commerce sites as also calls from various quarters for boycotting products from that country in view of India-China conflict in Ladakh which has led to loss of lives of Indian soldiers.

Petitioner in-person Divya Jyoti Singh told the court that the direction be issued for formulating a law asking all e-commerce industry/portals who are selling goods in India, through any channel, to display the 'country of origin' label in such a way that it is legible to consumers and they can read it.

As per the plea Section 2(9) of the consumer Protection Act, 2019, consumer rights include the right to be informed about the quality, quantity, potency, purity, standard and price of goods, products or services, as the case may be, so as to protect the consumer against unfair trade practices.

It added that the entire country is united and standing together showing allegiance to the motherland, as an effect of the loss of lives of our soldiers owing to the India-Chinese conflict in the Ladakh region and thus are running a nationwide campaign pertaining to the boycott of all the Chinese products/ mobile apps through which China generates revenue in Crores.

Chinese envoy slams UK high commissioner

PUSHKAR BANAKAR @ New Delhi

CHINESE Ambassador to India Sun Weidong on Friday hit out at British High Commissioner to India Sir Philip Barton over the latter's comments on the ongoing stand-off along the LAC, saying there was no need for a third-party interference in a bilateral issue.

"Noted remarks regarding #China by British High Commissioner to India, rife with mistakes & false allegations. Boundary question falls within bilateral scope of #China & #India. We have wisdom & capability to properly handle differences. No need for third party interference," Sun said in a tweet on Friday.

Barton on Thursday said China's imposition of the national security law in Hong Kong and its actions on the border with India posed a challenge to the world.

EXPRESS READ

Air fare cap to be extended till November 24

New Delhi: Amid the rising number of Covid-19 cases, the Civil Aviation Ministry on Friday decided to extend the air fare cap till November 24. The ministry said the domestic operation of flights will continue in the calibrated manner till November 24. "As per the prevailing situation of COVID-19, the Central government... directs that the order shall remain in force till 2359 hrs on 24th November, 2020, or until further orders," the Aviation Ministry said. Domestic passenger services resumed on May 25 after nearly two months of suspension during the lockdown to combat the coronavirus outbreak. Currently, Indian airports are operating with nearly 30 per cent capacity to facilitate social distancing.

Continue with relief work, gear up for polls: Nadda to Bihar BJP

NEW DELHI: BJP chief J P Nadda on Friday asked the party leaders in Bihar to commit themselves to the relief works for Covid-19 and flood while also gearing up the election machinery for the upcoming Assembly elections.

Nadda held deliberations with over 60 BJP state leaders belonging to the core group of the party and heads of various fronts. The virtual meeting was attended by BJP national general secretary Bhupendra Yadav, Union minister of state Ashwani Choubey, state unit chief Sanjay Jaiswal and other leaders.

"The BJP chief took stock of the prevailing situations arising out of the Covid-19 outbreak and floods. He said the BJP leaders and workers while following the Covid protocols should reach out the relief works to the affected people," said a senior BJP functionary. Incidentally, scores of the Bihar BJP leaders had tested Covid-19 positive a few days ago after which they had been isolating at their respective homes, which also included the state unit chief.

"The BJP chief told us that the party workers should be at the forefront of service to the flood and pandemic affected people, and set up camps appropriately to reach out the relief works. The BJP workers at the same time need to complete the organisational outreach activities at the booth levels in preparations for the Assembly elections," said another BJP functionary. *ENS*

> **The BJP chief told us that the party workers should be at the forefront of service to the flood and pandemic affected people, and set up camps appropriately to reach out the relief works** —Senior BJP functionary

ADVANI STATEMENT

BJP patriarch L K Advani recorded his statement before a special CBI court in the Babri mosque demolition case. The statement of the 92-year-old former deputy PM was recorded through video conferencing

1 ELEPHANT ELECTROCUTED IN CHHATTISGARH

Ahmedabad	36	25	Mumbai	30	25
Bhopal	33	24	Panaji	30	25
Jaipur	36	26	Patna	33	26
Amritsar	35	27	Lucknow	35	28
Chennai	34	27	Port Blair	31	25
Kolkata	33	27	Imphal	29	23
Srinagar	32	17	Chandigarh	32	26

EC lens on 'BJP link' to ad campaign

RTI activist had claimed Maharashtra CEO issued ads via an agency linked to BJP IT cell

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Election Commission has sought a report from the Maharashtra Chief Election Officer (CEO) regarding allegations that the poll body hired a firm reportedly linked to the BJP IT cell for its social media promotions in the run-up to the last year's Assembly elections.

EC spokesperson Sheyphali Sharan said details have been sought from the Maharashtra CEO regarding these allegations. "Regarding tweet of Mr Gokhale @SaketGokhale, Commission has sought detailed factual report in this matter from CEO Maharashtra with respect to alleged locale of the incidence immediately," she tweeted.

Sharan was responding to a series of tweets posted by Saket Gokhale, an RTI activist.

Through his tweets, Gokhale claimed the firm that was hired by the poll panel to handle its social media accounts in the run-up to the 2019 Maharashtra Assembly elections was the one hired by the BJP. The firm is also owned by a BJP leader, he claimed.

Gokhale pointed out that address of the social media advertisements posted by the Maharashtra CEO was '202 Pressman House, Vile Parle, Mumbai'. He claimed this was the address of Signpost India, a government-empanelled agency with close ties to former Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis. "The address 202 Pressman House was also used by a digital agency called Social Central. This agency is owned by Devang Dave who is the national convener of IT and social media for BJP's Youth Wing Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM)," Gokhale tweeted.

Meanwhile, Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh ordered an inquiry into an incident in which some alleged right-wing workers threatened Gokhale's mother. "We are taking very serious cognisance of this and have ordered an enquiry."

EX-CM'S TOUGH QUESTIONS TO POLL PANEL

Senior Congress leader **Prithviraj Chavan** said the latest episode puts a question on credibility and integrity of independent institutions like the Election Commission. "The BJP used this EC data through this agency to target the various groups. This murky involvement raises several questions," Chavan wrote to the EC.

Over 27 lakh people are affected by floods which have been devastating this year in Assam | PTI

Assam flood: Britain's royal couple 'shocked' at Kaziranga devastation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Guwahati

THREE more persons perished in the floods on Friday in Assam where the unending plight of both humans and animals has drawn the notice of Prince William and his wife Duchess Catherine Middleton.

In a letter to Kaziranga director P Sivakumar, the British royal couple wrote that they were heartbroken to hear about the devastation to the park and its precious wildlife. "We have the happiest memories of our visit to Kaziranga in April 2016 and are shocked by what has happened. The deaths of so many animals, including one-horned rhino, are deeply upsetting," the letter reads.

Offering condolences to all the affected, the couple said the loss of lives and livelihood in Assam as a result of the floods, coming on top of the COVID-19 pandemic, was deeply distressing. While floods have claimed 96 lives so far, 26 others were earlier killed by rain-triggered landslides. Altogether 126 animals, including 13 rhinos, perished at Kaziranga.

President Ram Nath Kovind took stock of the flood situation during a telephonic conversation with Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal on Friday. Sonowal informed Kovind that along with the flood situation, Assam is fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, erosion, storm, landslides, African swine fever and gas well fire at Baghjan in Tinsukia district.

Later, Kovind flagged off nine trucks of Red Cross relief supplies for the flood affected people of Assam, Bihar and UP.

According to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority, 27.80 lakh people across 26 districts were reeling under the flood. Altogether 496 relief camps are sheltering over 50,000 flood-affected people.

Assam Governor Jagdish Mukhi interacts with people at a relief campday | PTI

Breach in embankments in Bihar's two districts

Breach was reported in the embankment of swollen Gandak river in Bihar's Gopalganj and East Champaran districts on Friday after heavy rain and discharge of water from the Valmikinagar barrage. Besides inundating villages, the swirling water washed away a 10-year-old boy in Barauli area. Over 20,000 people are affected in the two districts.

Police search for Sanjeet Yadav's body at Pandu river in Kanpur on Friday | PTI

Abducted Kanpur youth dead, senior cops suspended

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

DAYS after the encounter-killing of Vikas Dubey, Kanpur is back in the news for all the wrong reasons. In a case of kidnapping and murder, the victim's family paid the ransom, but could not save his life.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has ordered immediate suspension of an IPS and a PPS officer, an inspector, 2 sub-inspectors and five constables. Additional Director General, Police Headquarters, B P Jogdand, has been asked to investigate all aspects of the case, including the "missing" ransom amount.

Five persons, including a woman, were arrested in the alleged murder of lab technician Sanjeet Yadav, who was kidnapped on June 22 from Barra locality of Kanpur. The police, however, informed the family on Thursday evening about his death. His body is yet to be recovered.

The victim's family has accused the police of colluding with the kidnappers and failing to stop them from escaping with ₹30-lakh ransom. Yadav's family members have charged the police with forcing them to arrange the ransom and handing it to the kidnappers "as a part of the strategy to nab the culprits".

SSP Kanpur, Dinesh Kumar, said a few suspects were detained, including two of the victim's friends. The SSP said on June 23, a complaint about the disappearance was registered at Barra Police Station followed by an FIR on June 26.

On June 29, the family received the first call for ransom about which Yadav's father, Chaman Lal, informed the police, who asked the family to talk with the kidnappers as long as they could if they again got a ransom call. The abductors, meanwhile, were threatening to kill Yadav.

Chaman Lal, who runs a small '*paan*' shop, had reportedly conveyed to the police that he had arranged ₹30 lakh at their behest. "I threw the money bag from the top of the Gujini Bridge in the police presence. The kidnappers, however, escaped with the bag. The police, on the contrary, later allegedly pressured the family into saying that there was no money in the bag," said Lal.

SSP Kumar said the interrogation of the suspects revealed that the victim was murdered on June 26-27 and the body was thrown into a river. "Teams have been formed to recover the body," Kumar said.

PREZ RULE MUST: SP

Samajwadi Party supremo Akhilesh Yadav demanded that President's Rule be imposed in UP. He also announced an assistance of ₹5 lakh for the family

MP POLITICS

Nath rues oppn govts are being toppled, BJP says introspect

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhopal

WITH three Congress MLAs switching over to the BJP within 11 days, Madhya Pradesh Congress chief Kamal Nath wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi mentioning that the federal structure of the country is under attack due to opposition governments being toppled in many states.

In a letter written to Modi, Nath mentioned that toppling his elected government four months ago was one of the most hated crimes that happened in the country's democratic history. "Still opposition MLAs are being lured to first resign from the Vidhan Sabha and then join the BJP. Such unethical acts are burdening the state's population with the burden of by-elections," Nath wrote.

"There is quake in entire democratic system in the country and there is a strong suspicion that nucleus of this quake is located at the centre. I hope my suspicion is wrong and you'll come forward to salvage the declining credibility of our democracy by not taking into your party and government such leaders, who are accused of striking deals for selling democratic values."

Responding to Nath's letter, BJP state president VD Sharma questioned Nath as to why he not mention about the Congress having toppled 105 opposition governments in various in the past.

"Did seasoned leaders, spanning from Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose to Acharya Kriplani, Chaudhary Charan Singh to Morarji Desai and others quit the Congress due to BJP's interference?"

"In the democracy there is a special space for disagreement and opposition, but the emergency backers like you won't understand it. Instead of writing a letter to the PM, you should introspect and leave some posts for other leaders," Sharma wrote.

Uddhav Thackeray dares Oppn to topple his govt

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

MAHARASHTRA Chief Minister **Uddhav Thackeray** has said there is no threat to his six-month-old Maha Vikas Aghadi coalition government. "I challenge the Opposition to topple my government," Thackeray said, expressing confidence of completing the full five-year term.

Thackeray's remarks come amid reports of alleged BJP attempts to topple the Congress-led Rajasthan government, soon after the fall of yet another Congress government in Madhya Pradesh. In a marathon interview with Shiv Sena mouthpiece '*Saamana*,' Thackeray asserts there is no threat to his three-party government.

A curtain-raiser of the interview was shared by Sena's Sanjay Raut on his social media platform. The full interview will be published on Saturday and Sunday.

Reports of a rift among the coalition's three parties – the Shiv Sena, Congress and the NCP – have bristled across the political circles in the state over the government's handling of Covid-19 situation, with NCP chief Sharad Pawar expressing divergent opinions. Raut has himself trashed such speculation in the recent months.

The Thackeray interview quotes him as saying the Centre should have clarity over its international policy. "Today, we are opposing China, but tomorrow, India and China could be friends again. We need to work hard on international relations and should have more clarity," he said.

Restore J&K's statehood on August 5: Apni Party chief to Centre

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

JAMMU and Kashmir Apni Party (JKAP) president Altaf Bukhari on Friday demanded that statehood of J&K should be restored on August 5, when it was split last year into two Union Territories.

At a press conference in Jammu, Bukhari said, the Centre should restore the statehood of J&K on August 5. "The Reorganisation Act was for one year and it is our right that our statehood should be restored."

J&K should be given back its status else "we will continue for restoration of statehood which was snatched from us on August 5," he said.

The JKAP president, however, did not refer to revocation of Articles 370 and 35A. Incidentally, Bukhari was the first mainstream politician to say that Kashmiris should move beyond Article 370 after its scrapping.

The other parties, including the National Conference, the PDP and the Congress, have condemned the scrapping of J&K's special status and are demanding restoration of special status and statehood.

Taking a dig at bureaucrats, Bukhari said J&K has unresponsive bureaucracy, who have no connect with the people. "The officials don't listen to people and don't attend to the phone calls. They are not responsive".

The Apni Party president demanded restoration of high-speed internet which remains suspended since last year. "Due to non-availability of high-speed internet services, all spheres of life are badly affected. Militants use satellite phones not 4G internet, which is not restored despite repeated pleas from students and others."

RAJASTHAN

Labourer's son beats all odds, comes 2nd in Class XII exam

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

ADVERSITY can bring out the best in you, if you have the will. Meet Prakash of Dhorimanna village in Barmer: he has scored 99.2% and stood second in the 12th standard exams of the Rajasthan Board of Secondary Education. Poverty and absence of basic facilities in that remote desert zone has been his constant companion, as also his will to succeed.

He has some regret, though: he couldn't get the full 100%. He secured 100 marks in Hindi and History, 99 in Hindi Literature and English, and 98 in Political Science. "I had worked hard and expected to score full marks in all subjects," he said.

Prakash's father, Chainaram Kamtha, is a daily wage construction labourer and hardly earns enough to feed his family. A paralysis attack in his leg recently makes it even tougher for him to work. The son's grand success has given him new hope. "It's all blessings of God... of course my son is very hard working."

The youngster and his four siblings have roughed it out no matter what. "This success is the result of Prakash's hard work. He studies a lot and has a sharp brain," says his mother Santoshi Devi, a home-maker.

"In our village, power cuts are a serious problem. My sister and I had to often study under the torchlight" says Prakash. He had scored 96.17 % marks in his 10th board exams. He continued to study in a government school and upped his study hours from 7 hours daily to about 9 hours. He stays away from TV, mobile phones and other distractions.

Jharkhand stands second in PMAY work

Jharkhand has excelled in implementing Centre's flagship rural housing programme- the Prime Minister Awas Yojana (Rural). Jharkhand stood second in the ranking of states at 94.82 per cent. Chhattisgarh, another non-BJP ruled state, topped the list with 95.35 per cent. The ranking was done on the basis of a state's performance during the lockdown period. Chief Minister Hemant Soren said the eastern state's performance in executing work under the PMAY -Rural scheme is an indicator of his government's dedication towards rural developmental works.

MUKESH RANJAN
Our correspondent in Jharkhand
mukesh.r@newindianexpress.com

RANCHI DIARY

Incoming travellers must provide personal details

Looking at the surge of Covid-19 cases, the Jharkhand government has made it mandatory for any traveller to provide their details by filling up an online form on the www.jharhandtravel.nic.in before entering the state by rail, road, or air. Moreover, he or she will also have to stay in home quarantine for 14 days while observing all the guidelines issued in this regard after entering the state borders, the state government said in its order. According to the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) issued by the Department of Home, Prisons and Disaster Management to the Deputy Commissioners and Police, those found not abiding by the order will be booked under relevant sections (51-60) of Disaster Management Act of 2005.

Saree-Dhoti-Lungi scheme yet again

The Hemant Soren government is going to launch the Saree-Dhoti-Lungi scheme once again in the state. Under this scheme, people living below the poverty line are provided clothes at the cost of just ₹10 twice in a year. CM Soren has launched the scheme in 2014 during his first tenure. However, it was discontinued after the Raghubar Das-led BJP government came into power later that year. The scheme will be implemented by the Food, Public Distribution and Consumer Affairs Department and clothes will be made available at PDS shops to the people from EWS background.

IRCTC to set up Rail Neer plant at Patratu

With the increasing demand for packaged drinking water in trains, the IRCTC has decided to set up a Rail Neer plant at Patratu in Ramgarh, around 35 km from Ranchi. This will be the first unit of Rail-Neer in the State. Presently, IRCTC has 11 operational Rail Neer Plants at Nangloi (Delhi), Danapur (Bihar), Palur (Tamil Nadu), Ambernath, Nagpur (Maharashtra), Amethi , Hapur (UP), Parassalla (Kerala), Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh), Sanand (Ahmedabad) and Mandideep (MP) with a production capacity of 11,64,000 bottles per day.

21,000 jobs

to be eliminated at oil services group Schlumberger, after the company reported a $3.4 bn quarterly loss.

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	33	24	SNY	Los Angeles	25	15	SNY
Colombo	29	25	TDS	Melbourne	13	4	LC
Doha	39	31	SNY	Moscow	21	12	LC
Dubai	40	31	SNY	New York	30	22	LC
Houston	29	22	TDS	Singapore	30	25	TDS
Istanbul	29	20	SNY	Toronto	29	19	SNY
London	21	13	LR	Washington DC	32	23	LC

The Justice Department has announced indictments of four Chinese researchers it said lied about their ties to the People's Liberation Army, with one researcher escaping arrest by taking refuge in China's San Francisco consulate

On Tuesday, the Trump administration ordered the Houston consulate closed within 72 hours. It alleged Chinese agents tried to steal data from facilities including the Texas A&M medical system

THE CHENGDU CONSULATE IS AN IMPORTANT U.S. LISTENING POST FOR THE TIBET REGION

2013 A map leaked by Edward Snowden showed surveillance facilities at US embassies and consulates worldwide -- with the Chengdu consulate among them

2012 The Chengdu mission was where senior Chinese official Wang Lijun fled in 2012 from his powerful boss Bo Xilai, who was then head of the nearby metropolis Chongqing

They wanted to make it hurt a little bit more so they picked Chengdu. What the Chinese care about more — and what we care about more — is what we (the US) do out of Chengdu, which is follow Tibet. And shutting that down kind of cuts our link to Tibet, a political blow to us

James Green, ex-US State Department, told *Bloomberg*

China shuts US consulate in Chengdu in its tit for tat for Houston squeeze

Diplomatic conflict ratchets up after several Chinese nationals were indicted by the US

CHENGDU

CHINA on Friday ordered the US consulate in the southwestern city of Chengdu to close in retaliation for one of its missions in the United States being shuttered, capping a furious week of Cold War-style diplomacy.

The announcement of the closure followed a torrent of warnings from top American officials about the "tyranny" of China, and Chinese nationals being indicted in the United States on various charges.

Ordering the Chengdu consulate to cease operation was a "legitimate and necessary response to the unreasonable measures by the United States", the foreign ministry said in a statement.

"The current situation in China-US relations is not what China desires to see, and the US is responsible for all this," it said without saying when it would have to shut down.

The ministry emphasised the closure was directly in response to the US ordering the Chinese consulate in Houston to shut down by Friday.

Some consulate staff "were engaged in activities outside of their capacity, interfered in China's internal affairs, and endangered China's security and interests," foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told reporters.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said this week the Houston mission was a "hub of spying and intellectual property theft".

Republican Senator Marco Rubio called the consulate the "central node of the Communist Party's vast network of spies and influence operations in the United States".

China described the allegations as "malicious slander".

The order on Houston came a day after the US Justice Department unveiled the indictment of two Chinese nationals for allegedly hacking hundreds of companies and attempting to steal coronavirus vaccine research.

Some two-dozen police were stationed in front of the Chengdu consulate -- which was surrounded by a waist-high barricade -- late Friday, according to an AFP journalist, with officers asking individuals taking photos to move along.

Earlier, firecrackers were set off in front of the compound, according to images on state broadcaster CCTV, though one of its reporters added there was a wedding nearby and police at the scene were handling the matter.

'New tyranny'

The two nations have increasingly tussled over a plethora of issues, including China's handling of the pandemic and its efforts to quash a democracy movement in Hong Kong.

The US administration has ratcheted up the rhetoric and taken increasingly strong actions in recent weeks, which observers have said is part of Donald Trump's strategy to win votes in the Nov polls.

"Today, China is increasingly authoritarian at home, and more aggressive in its hostility to freedom everywhere else," Pompeo, who has helped to leads Trump's offensive, said on Thursday. "The free world must triumph over this new tyranny." *AFP*

ASIA MATTERS

BANGLADESH

Complex for climate change refugees opens

Bangladesh has opened a complex of 20 housing blocks to house some of the growing numbers of people to have lost their homes to rising seas and ever-more-frequent storms. Climate change has already taken a serious toll on densely populated and impoverished Bangladesh, a country the United Nations has identified as among the most vulnerable to a warming planet. The new apartment buildings opened on Thursday in the Cox's Bazar district of southeastern Bangladesh and will house around 650 families, with more under construction. Jobaida Begum, who lost her mother and grandma during the devastating 1991 cyclone that killed 1,38,000 people, was among the first to get keys for her new apartment. "Our home in the Kutubdia island was destroyed in the 1991 cyclone," she said.

THAILAND

6 who took part in US-Thai military drill test positive

Thailand says six soldiers who took part in a joint US-Thai military exercise in Hawaii have tested positive for the coronavirus after their return home. Taweesilp Visanuyothin, spokesman for the government's Center for COVID-19 Situation Administration, said Friday the six were among 140 Thai soldiers who participated in the July 1-21 Lightning Forge 2020 exercise. He said when the soldiers returned Wednesday, those with symptoms were admitted to a military hospital while others were sent to a quarantine centre.

INDONESIA

US fugitive-turned-porn actor busted by Bali cops

An American fugitive accused of running an investment scam in his home country has been arrested in Bali, where he was working as a porn actor-director, police said Friday. Authorities on the Indonesian holiday island busted Marcus Beam on Thursday -- his 50th birthday -- over charges he bilked clients and women he met online out of some $500,000 between 2015 and last year "He claimed to be an investment manager but didn't invest the funds and instead spent it on his own expenses," Bali police chief Petrus Reinhard Golose told reporters, adding that Beam was wanted by Interpol. The former Chicago resident faced nine counts of fraud in an indictment filed by the US Securities and Exchange Commission last year. Beam entered Bali in January with a fake passport.

'Herd immunity needs several waves'

LONDON

THE chief scientist at the World Health Organization estimates that about 50% to 60% of the population will need to be immune to the coronavirus for there to be any protective "herd immunity" effect.

During a social media event on Friday, Dr. Soumya Swaminathan said that studies done from some countries hit hard by Covid-19 show about 5% to 10% of people now have antibodies, though in some countries, it has been as high as 20%. She says: "As there are

Dr. Soumya Swaminathan

waves of this infection going through countries, people are going to develop antibodies and those people will hopefully be immune for sometime so they will also act as barriers and brakes to the spread."

Other experts have estimated that as much as 70% to 80% of the population need to have antibodies before there is any herd immunity effect.

In the pandemic's earlier stages, Britain proposed achieving herd immunity as an outbreak response strategy. But Swaminathan pointed out that achieving this effect with a vaccine is much safer than letting the virus rip through the population. She says that to achieve herd immunity naturally, you need to have several waves and you will see the morbidity and mortality that we see now. *AP*

WEALTH FUND

Goldman Sachs-1MDB scandal nears end with $3.9 bn Malaysia deal

KUALA LUMPUR

MALAYSIA'S government said on Friday it has reached a $3.9 billion settlement with Goldman Sachs in exchange for dropping criminal charges against the bank over bond sales that raised money for the 1MDB sovereign wealth fund, which was looted of billions of dollars in a massive scandal.

Malaysian and US prosecutors had alleged that the bond sales organized by Goldman Sachs provided one of the means for associates of ex-Prime Minister Najib Razak to steal billions over several years from a fund that was ostensibly set up to accelerate Malaysia's economic development.

Najib is on trial on multiple corruption charges linked to the scandal after his election ouster in May 2018. Goldman and two of its former executives were charged in December that year with alleged breaches of securities laws including misleading investors over the bond sales. Another 17 former and current Goldman executives were also charged last year over alleged roles in the fraud.

The finance ministry said the deal was a sharp jump from Goldman's previous offer of $1.75 billion in 2019 and will avoid lengthy and costly court battles. The settlement came after a new government, which includes Najib's Malay party, took power in March following a political coup. It is lower than the $7.5 billion settlement that the previous government had sought.

"With today's settlement amount and the monies that Malaysia has already received from the US Department of Justice, more than $4.5 billion will be returned to the people of Malaysia," the ministry said, adding the government is committed to recovering other outstanding assets. *AP*

THE PACT

$2.5 bn
cash payment to Malaysia
$1.4 bn
at least in proceeds Goldman Sachs guarantees from assets bought with missappropriated funds

$4.5 bn

US investigators allege at least $4.5 billion was stolen from the 1MDB fund and laundered by ex-PM Najib Razak's associates

Taliban says it's ready for talks with Kabul after Eid holiday

ISLAMABAD

THE Taliban say they are ready for talks with Afghanistan's political leadership after the Muslim holiday of Eid ul Adha at the end of July, offering to hand over the last of the government prisoners in a week's time, providing the government frees the last of its Taliban prisoners.

The offer made by Taliban's political spokesman Suhail Shaheen in a tweet late Thursday follows one of the most significant shakeups in the Taliban in years. The group appointed the son of the movement's fearsome founder to head its military wing and powerful leadership council members to its negotiation team.

In Kabul on Friday, the High Council for National Reconciliation, which was created in May to manage peace efforts with the Taliban, said it was still working through the Taliban's prisoner list.

Javed Faisal, spokesman for the Afghan national security adviser's office, previously said nearly 600 Taliban prisoners whose release is being sought have been convicted of serious crimes. The government is reluctant to set them free, he said.

It seemed unlikely the government would free the Taliban prisoners before the Muslim holiday. As per the deal, the prisoner exchange is to take place before talks between Kabul and the Taliban. *AP*

US unveils roadmap for unhackable internet

WASHINGTON

US officials and scientists have begun laying the groundwork for a more secure "virtually unhackable" internet based on quantum computing technology.

At a presentation Thursday, Department of Energy (DOE) officials issued a report that lays out a blueprint strategy for the development of a national quantum internet, using laws of quantum mechanics to transmit information more securely than on existing networks.

The agency is working with universities and industry researchers on the engineering for the initiative with the aim of creating a prototype within a decade.

In February, scientists from DOE's Argonne National Laboratory and the University of Chicago created a 52-mile (83-kilometer) "quantum loop" in the Chicago suburbs, establishing one of the longest land-based quantum networks in the nation.

The aim is to create a parallel, more secure network based on quantum "entanglement," or the transmission of sub-atomic particles. "One of the hallmarks of quantum transmissions is that they are exceedingly difficult to eavesdrop on as information passes between locations," as per the Energy Department statement.

"Scientists plan to use that trait to make virtually unhackable networks."

The department said early adopters could include the banking and health services sectors, adding that there would be applications for national security and aircraft communications. "Eventually, the use of quantum networking technology in mobile phones could have broad impacts on the lives of individuals around the world," the statement added. *AFP*

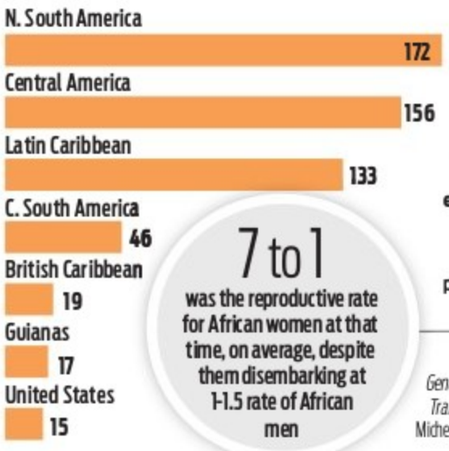
HOW BLACKS' GENES REFLECT VIOLENT LEGACY OF SLAVERY

A new DNA study published in the *American Journal of Human Genetics* sheds fresh light on the horrors of the transatlantic slave trade, from the legacy of rape that can be seen in today's genetics to how disease likely decimated some groups forced to work in deadly conditions

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Despite the fact that more than 60% of enslaved people brought to the Americas were men, comparisons of genetics reveal a strong bias toward African female contributions in the modern gene pool of African heritage people across the region. Much of this can be attributed to the rape of enslaved African women by white men, and other forms of sexual exploitation, like the promise of freedom if they birthed enough children

THE NUMBER OF AFRICAN WOMEN FOUND IN THE GENE POOL PER 10 AFRICAN MEN, IN AMERICAS



7 to 1 was the reproductive rate for African women at that time, on average, despite them disembarking at 1-1.5 rate of African men

We have some regions that are essentially showing 17 African females reproducing for every one African male. We never expected the ratio to be that high

Steven Micheletti, population geneticist at 23andMe

Source: *Genetic Consequences of the Transatlantic Slave Trade* by Micheletti et al, 23andMe, WSJ

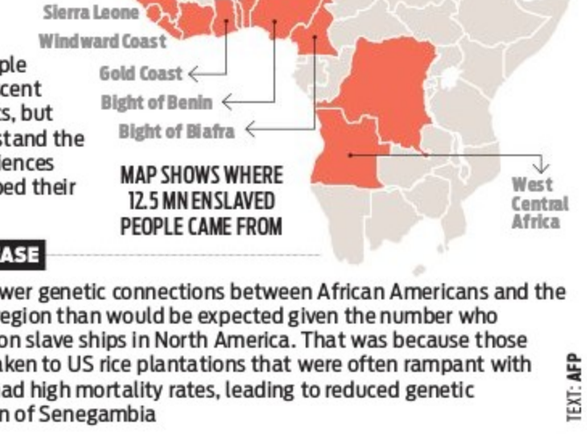
RESEARCH PROCESS

50,000 Genetic data from 50,000 consenting research participants from both sides of the Atlantic was compiled

12.5 mn The data was then cross-referenced with records from slave ships that transported 12.5 million during **1515-1865**

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The researchers said they hoped to not only help people of African descent find their roots, but also to understand the historic experiences that had shaped their genes today



DEADLY DISEASE

There were fewer genetic connections between African Americans and the Senegambia region than would be expected given the number who disembarked on slave ships in North America. That was because those slaves were taken to US rice plantations that were often rampant with malaria and had high mortality rates, leading to reduced genetic representation of Senegambia

TEXT: AFP

US fighter jet intercepts Iran passenger plane, causes panic

TEHRAN

IRAN protested on Friday to the United Nations of a "flagrant violation" of international law after nearby US fighter jets sparked panic on an Iranian passenger plane over war-torn Syria.

The incident on Thursday was the latest between arch-foes Tehran and Washington since US President Donald Trump walked out in 2018 of a nuclear accord with Iran and renewed punishing sanctions.

Iran's state television broadcast footage filmed on a mobile phone of screaming passengers as the pilot of a Mahan Air plane on a flight from Tehran to Beirut took emergency action.

A passenger with blood running down his forehead and another who had fallen to the floor were seen in the video, and one jet spotted through the window.

State news agency IRNA said a protest letter would be submitted to the UN Security Council and secretary general over "the threat posed to the Mahan Air passenger plane".

Iran's foreign ministry said protests were also filed with the International Air Transport Association and the Swiss embassy in Tehran that handles US interests in Iran since ties were cut after 1979.

The US military said an "F-15 on a routine air mission... conducted a standard visual inspection of a Mahan Air passenger airliner at a safe distance of approximately 1,000 metres (yards)".

US Central Command issued a statement after Iranian state TV aired the footage of passengers in panic. *AFP*

This handout photo purportedly shows a crew member helping a passenger who fell over inside an Iranian passenger plane after it was intercepted by a US F-15 | AFP

Market Watch

MARKET			GOLD			SILVER			FOREX		
11.57 ▼	Sensex	38,128.9	₹40 ▲	24 carat (1 gm)	₹5,060	₹950 ▼	Per kg	₹61,050	▲ Dollar	74.82
21.30 ▼	Nifty	11,194.15	₹40 ▲	22 carat (1 gm)	₹4,960	₹0.95 ▼	Per gm	₹61.05	▲ Euro	86.85

Govt scans Chinese funding in NGOs

Besides, investment in start-ups coming via Singapore and Hong Kong may also be curbed

ANURADHA SHUKLA @ New Delhi

AFTER imposing restrictions on foreign companies from participating in government projects and procurements, the Centre has stepped up scrutiny of Chinese investments in NGOs and start-ups. That apart, the government also plans to tighten norms for investment directed via Singapore and Hong Kong.

"There are reports of direct and indirect Chinese fundings to some NGOs, self-help groups and even think tanks. In the coming few days, we will be closely scanning the latest funding, especially in the last 12-14 months," a senior Finance ministry official told *TNIE*.

On Friday evening, after a series of meetings between officials from the Finance Ministry, Commerce Ministry and Prime Minister's Office, the government has changed rules to enable curbs on bidders from countries that share a land border with India "on the grounds of defence and national security". Officials added the government is also planning to tighten norms and closely scan investments from Chinese firms which are coming via Singapore and Hong Kong.

"We are keeping a track on FDIs coming from China to prevent their takeover of Indian companies. However, in last 2-3 years many investment have come via their Singapore and Hong Kong subsidiary, which are investing in start-ups and smaller firms. Also, sometimes they are funding companies based in Singapore, which in turn invest in Indian tech companies" the official noted.

A large number of Chinese investors, such as electronics goods maker Xiaomi, have entered India via Singapore and other countries, which do not reflect in the official numbers, a point which was highlighted by many since the political tension built up between the two countries.

Elaborating further, the official said that the government has learnt that many blockchain companies are funded by Chinese firms via cryptocurrencies and other virtual currency mode making it very difficult to track, which was already flagged by investigative agencies. Recently, the government tightened its policy on foreign direct investment to require investment from any country that shares a land border with India to go through a government approval process.

> **We are keeping a track on FDIs coming from China to prevent their takeover of Indian companies. However, in last 2-3 years many investment have come via their Singapore and Hong Kong subsidiary**
>
> Finance ministry official

NTPC plans to acquire 1GW of locally-made solar assets

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

STATE-RUN power producer NTPC Ltd has begun scouting for operational solar plants that it can acquire, with the company issuing a request for proposal (RFP) on Friday inviting bids from the promoters, lenders or authorised representatives of such assets.

According to the RFP document, the company is mulling increasing its renewable energy capacities by acquiring, at a minimum, at least 1 GW worth of solar projects. Experts note that going by current development cost per megawatt of capacity, this may cost the company more than ₹4,000-4,500 crore.

The RFP called for bids from "promoters or lenders, authorised financial intermediaries of power generation companies, independent power producers or developers for offering operational solar-based assets located in India". While no such mention is made in the RFP, officials say that the firm is likely to focus only on plants with high locally manufactured infrastructure and actively avoid China-made equipment and projects.

As per the RFP, eligibility criteria includes a state- or CERC-approved tariff of less than or equal to ₹5 per unit and at least 50 MW of operational capacity. The process is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

NTPC's long-term corporate plan envisages achieving a target of 32 GW renewable energy capacity, which would comprise around 25 per cent of its total capacity at that time. Currently, the company has green energy assets worth around 2.29 GW under construction and choosing to go for acquisitions is another route to beefing up clean energy capacities. NTPC plans to utilise capital expenditure to the tune of ₹21,000 crore this fiscal year.

Govt notifies new consumer-friendly rules for e-commerce companies

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Bengaluru

THE Department of Consumer Affairs, under the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, on Friday notified new e-commerce rules as a part of the consumer protection law under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019. The new rules warrant the e-tailers to set in place a consumer redressal mechanism, not indulge in unfair trade practices and notify the identity (including name and details of the importer) from where these entities imported goods among others.

At a time when the e-commerce companies are alleged to have been involved in deep discounting, profiteering and preferential treatment of sellers, the new rules specify that no e-commerce entity shall adopt any unfair trade practice, whether in the course of business on its platform or otherwise. "No e-commerce entity shall manipulate the price of the goods or services offered on its platform in such a manner as to gain unreasonable profit by imposing on consumers any unjustified price having regard to the prevailing market conditions, the essential nature of the good or service, any extraordinary circumstances under which the good or service is offered, and any other relevant consideration in determining whether the price charged is justified," the rules stated.

IN A GIST

The new norms have been termed as the Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules, 2020

Companies have to address customer complaints and avoid discriminating against merchants on their platforms

A lot of focus has been laid on redresal of consumer grievances with e-commerce firms now having to mandatorily dispose any such complaint within a month as well as acknowledging the receipt of such complaints within 48 hours. Besides, the companies will have to appoint a grievance officer for consumer grievance redressal, and display the name, contact details, and designation of such officer on its platform. According to the notification, consumers will not have to pay any cancellation charges even if they cancel the order after confirmation.

Coffee Day probe flags ₹2,693 cr hole in books

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

AN investigation into Coffee Day Enterprises (CDEL) has revealed details of suspicious transactions between Mysore Amalgamated Coffee Estates (MACEL) — a private firm of the CCD founder VG Siddhartha — and multiple group companies. The probe concluded MACEL owes a sum of ₹3,535 crore to the subsidiaries of CDEL as at July 31, 2019. Out of this, ₹2,693 crore is missing from the books of the listed company while the remaining ₹842 crore was recorded.

The investigation was ordered by the board of CDEL after Siddhartha's suicide last July andAshok Kumar Malhotra, retired DIG of Central Bureau of Investigation was appointed for the same. The investigators have given a clean chit to the Income Tax Department and the PE investors of the company in reference to the founder's statements of harassment and pressure he faced.

"A significant portion of the money may have been probably spent to buy-back equity from PE investors, repay loans and to pay interest apart from funding certain other private investments," a synopsis of the probe that was submitted to the Board stated. Further, it added that the investigators were "broadly agreeable to the statement made by VGS that he failed to create the right profitable business model. He may have felt aversive behavioral stimulus due to persistent reminders from the PE investors and other lenders."

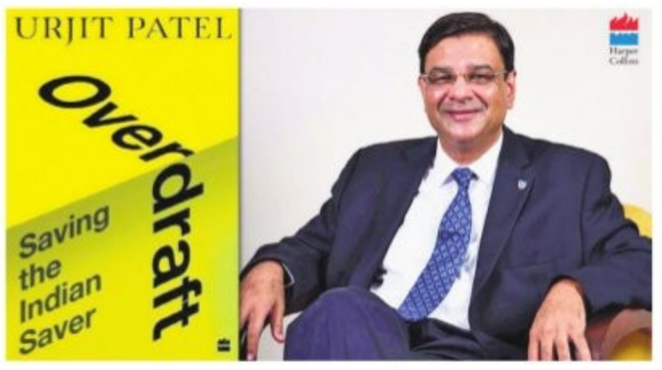
After the report was put in the public domain, the coffee entrepreneur's wife and director of the group company Malavika Hegde wrote an emotional letter to the employees stating that the Coffee Day story was "worth preserving".

Telecom user base in April falls by 82 lakh

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

INDIA's telecom subscriber base tanked by over 82 lakh users during the first month of the nation-wide lockdown — April 2020. According to the latest subscription data from the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), telecom service providers saw a substantial exodus of users in their urban circles, while rural circles saw the number of subscribers increase marginally.

The subscriber report shows that among service providers, Bharti Airtel saw the largest decline in user base at 52 lakh while peer Vodafone Idea continued to bleed too, losing 45 lakh users. Reliance Jio however was the only telecom service provider who saw a positive user base change, adding 16 lakh new subscribers. This brings the Mukesh Ambani-owned unit's wireless market share up to 33.85 per cent, leaving rivals Airtel (28.06 per cent) and Vodafone Idea (27.37 per cent) trailing behind. The active number of users at their 'home locations', or the region to which the SIM is linked, fell from 85.4 per cent in March to 83.3 per cent in April, it showed.



Insolvency law caused rift with Centre: Urjit Patel

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

DIFFERENCES over a strict new bankruptcy law has caused a rift between the Centre and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), according to former RBI Governor Urjit Patel. The central bank had issued in February 2018, a circular which called upon banks to classify borrowers as defaulters within one day of delay in loan repayment beyond a timeline of 180 days and disallowed corporate debt restructuring for defaulters.

In his book — Overdraft — released on Friday Patel, who was at the helm of RBI for two years till December 2018, revealed there were attempts to soft pedal on the new rules. "From July 2018 onward, the IBC was felt, at least by some lobbies, to be constraining ... too strict on borrowers," he wrote. He added: "Instead of buttressing and future-proofing the gains thus far, an atmosphere to go easy on the pedal ensued. Until then, for the most part, the finance minister and I were on the same page, with frequent conversations on enhancing the landmark legislation's operational efficiency".

The government seemed to feel that a deterrent effect had been achieved. The former governor pointed out that "there were requests for rolling back the February circular" on the plea that it was harsh on small businesses. Eventually, came a new circular in June 2019 after his resignation which dilated the February circular giving defauters an extra 30 days breathing time.

Patel has also criticised the dilution by saying the consequences for higher provisions by banks will be felt by taxpayers as the government would have to shore up their capital. In his book, he says, "lawyers who had agreed to represent the RBI in the Supreme Court (against a challenge to the Feb circular) dropped out at the eleventh hour, literally the night before the hearing." It was known that differences were on three counts — the February circular which was seen as too rigid, transfer of the RBI's reserves as profits to the government, and conditions for loans to stressed power plants, run by some of India's top business houses.

MAKE IN INDIA

iPhone 11 now being made at a Chennai plant

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Chennai

APPLE has started making iPhone 11 at the Foxconn plant near Chennai, according to multiple reports. The move holds significance as it is seen as an attempt by the handset maker to reduce its dependence on China.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal announced the news on Twitter on Friday. He wrote, "Significant boost to Make in India! Apple has started manufacturing iPhone 11 in India, bringing a top-of-the-line model for the first time in the country."

However, when TNIE contacted Foxconn officials they remained tight-lipped on the issue. Foxconn India, head and managing director, Josh Foulger said "I don't want to comment anything on this issue now. Foxconn, which assembles iPhone, has plans to invest $1 billion in its plant at Sriperumbudur near Chennai for expansion in phases over next few years Foxconn at its Sriperumbur plant makes Apple's iPhone XR model. Even, Apple CEO Tim Cook has time and again spoken about the company's vision to focus on manufacturing in India.

The move is seen as an attempt by the company to take benefit of the various schemes rolled out by the central government to attract global smartphone makers. Recently, the Centre has also announced schemes offering five global smartphone makers incentives to establish or expand domestic production. Experts say as labour in India is cheaper as compared to China, and the gradual expansion will prove beneficial for Apple.

Chinese smartphone brands' share in Indian market falls by 9% in 3 months

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

THE market share of Chinese players in the Indian smartphone market has fallen by nine per cent in just three months because of supply chain constraints and growing anti-China sentiment, according to a Counterpoint Research report released on Friday. It stated that Chinese smartphone brands saw their market share in India fall to 72 per cent in June quarter (Q2) from 81 per cent in March quarter or the first quarter.

Major players such as Oppo, Vivo and Realme saw their share decline in Q2, while Korean tech giant Samsung saw its market go up from 16 per cent in Q1 to 26 per cent.

Shilpi Jain, Research Analyst at Counterpoint Research, said, "The contribution of Chinese brands fell mainly due to the mixture of stuttering supply for some major Chinese brands such as OPPO, vivo and realme, and growing anti-China sentiment that was compounded by stringent actions taken by the government to ban apps of Chinese origin and delay the import of goods from China amid extra scrutiny. This all resulted from the India-China border dispute during June."

Going ahead, Chinese brands are likely to face additional hardships in the Indian market as Mukesh Ambani owned Reliance Jio is entering into the smartphone market with leading tech giant Google. The duo will make affordable 4G or even 5G android smartphones in India.

EXPRESS READ

ITC Q1 profit dips 26%, but FMCG revenue up

New Delhi: FMCG major ITC on Friday posted a 26 per cent year-on-year fall in consolidated profit after tax for the June quarter to ₹2,567 crore amid coronavirus crisis. In the corresponding quarter last year, it had posted ₹3,436.5 crore of profit. While hotels, cigarettes segment were severely impacted, FMCG revenue rose 10 per cent to ₹3,378.84 crore, the company said.

Vistara inducts Airbus A321neo to fly abroad

New Delhi: Full-service carrier Vistara on Friday announced receiving its first Airbus A321neo as it looks to expand its international operations. The induction of this aircraft in its fleet makes Vistara the first airline in South Asia to offer lie-flat beds on a narrowbody aircraft and one of the few such airlines across the world. It is part of the order signed in 2018 with Airbus A320 Family.

Hero MotoCorp pumps ₹84 cr in Ather Energy

New Delhi: The country's largest two-wheeler maker Hero MotoCorp on Friday announced an investment of ₹84 crore (US$11million) in Ather Energy, taking up its shareholding in the company to 34.58 per cent. Prior to this, its shareholding in Ather Energy was 31.27 per cent. The automobile company has been an active investor in Ather since 2016.

AUTOMOBILE

Hyundai kicks off third shift operation, steps up hiring for stores to meet demand

BINITA JAISWAL @ Chennai

RISING demand for its cars in both domestic and export markets post easing of lockdown has pushed Hyundai Motor India to hire more employees for its Sriperumbudur plant near Chennai.

The country's second largest passenger vehicle maker plans to hire around 1,800 employees, mainly apprentice and trainees to manage its shop floor, and has already started the recruitment drive.

"Due to the current pandemic situation, we have witnessed customer preferences for personal mobility. To fulfil this growing demand in both the exports and domestic markets, we have recently started our third shift operations. We have also started the apprentice and trainees hiring to meet the requirement of operations," Stephen Sudhakar J, Senior Vice-President, People Support and Business Strategy, HMIL told this publication. Sudhakar further added that the hiring will help to fill the gap created by those who were unable to return to or re-join work due to Covid-19 lockdown and travel ban situations prevailing in the state. Recently, a top official of the company said that recovery is Indian market was happening at a faster pace. In June, Hyundai reached 75 per cent of the sales as compared with last year and in July they are expecting to reach 90 per cent of sales that it registered in the same month a year ago.

The ailing automotive industry received another major blow during the lockdown following which the sector witnessed layoffs and pay cuts.

> **To fulfil the growing demand in both exports and domestic markets, we have started our third shift operations. We have also started the apprentice and trainees hiring to meet the requirement...**
>
> Stephen Sudhakar J, Senior VP, People Support and Business Strategy, HMIL

Hyundai, however, has not laid off a single employee due to pandemic. In fact, the company has given promotions to its blue-collared employees to boost their morale. "This is a difficult time for all. But we believe it is equally important for an employer to care for their employees and boost their morale at such a time. We have already completed the formalities for promotions of the technicians cadre and for the other category, it is a work in progress," Sudhakar added.

F1 cancels 4 more races, adds 3 to calendar

Formula One races in Brazil, Canada, Mexico and the United States have all been cancelled for this year amid the coronavirus pandemic, with three others added to the calendar. F1 said that the Eifel Grand Prix will host a race at the iconic Nurburgring in Germany on October 11, followed by the Portuguese GP in Portimao two weeks later and the Emilia-Romagna GP in Italy on November 1.

DELAYED IPL FAVOURS SEPTEMBER 19 DATE

Final earmarked for November 8, full schedule to be announced after getting clearance from government to hold league in UAE

VENKATA KRISHNA B @Chennai

WITH the approval from the Central government expected anytime next week, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has informed the franchises that this year's Indian Premier League (IPL) will begin on September 19, with the final slotted for November 8. The full schedule will be out once the government gives the go-ahead to move the tournament to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

IPL Governing Council chairman Brijesh Patel confirmed the dates as things have started to move quickly in the board circles. While the general perception was that the dates will be confirmed only at a governing council meeting, BCCI believed locking the dates will make it easier for the stakeholders to plan.

As it was in the original schedule for April-May, the tournament will have 51 days if one goes by November 8 finish. It is understood that in case of double-headers the afternoon matches will begin at 3.30 PM IST and evening matches at 7.30 PM IST to suit the Indian television audience.

While there is no definite clarity whether the said governing council meeting would take place, the franchises expect the Standard Operating Procedure with regards to do's and don'ts under the bio-secure environment will be circulated next week. The chances of players arriving from the Caribbean and UK taking the charter flight look to be one of the things being pondered by the BCCI.

Although the initial plan was to start the league by September 26, the BCCI felt the need to advance it by a week as it would give sufficient time for the Indian team to prepare for their tour of Australia. With the inaugural Test expected to start by December first week, Indians have to arrive Down Under at least two weeks prior to that because of the quarantine guidelines.

Though there were concerns with regards to the availability of Australia and England players – who happen to be core players for most franchises – if the IPL begins on September 19, teams have expressed their willingness to start even if it means they might not be available for the first couple of matches. "In terms of beginning, we couldn't have expected a better date. This works for everyone. There is a 10-day gap between the Caribbean Premier League and IPL," said Satish Menon, the CEO of Kings XI Punjab, which acquired the St Lucia franchise that features in the CPL.

However, the picture is not clear as to when England and Australia players will join the IPL. Both teams are lined up to play limited-overs series in the UK and though Australia have already named a 26-member preliminary squad for the series for which the dates are yet to be announced, reports in England suggest that the last and final ODI will be played on September 15. Even if that is the case, the players will not require to serve the quarantine period if they test Covid-19 negative before boarding the flight and after landing in UAE. But if they return positive in any one of the two tests, they have to be quarantined.

Given the money involved, some Australian players involved in the IPL might even drop out of the UK tour. Cricket Australia is also unlikely to play hardball as there are indications that their players will have to suffer pay cuts in the wake of the pandemic.

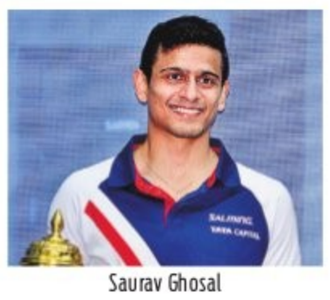
2020 not a year wasted: Ghosal

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN
@Chennai

AFTER roughly three months of mixing and matching with assorted basic equipment at home, Saurav Ghosal has returned to his natural habitat: a squash court. Away from it for more than 100 days, he initially thought it would take some time to get that muscle memory flowing again. He was wrong. He felt at ease straightaway. In an interview with this daily, the World No 13 also spoke about what kept him going during the lockdown, his unrealised dreams and why for him 2020 wouldn't be a 'year wasted'. Excerpts:

Without tournaments to look forward, what has kept you motivated?
Obviously, there have been days where it's been hard. You go to sleep thinking 'there is no light at the end of the tunnel'. But overall, I would like to think I have done decently over the past few months. My thought process has been, 'I want to get to World No 1, so there are things I need to do... better than what I do today'. That's why I'm not World No 1. So try to kind of connect the things that I need to improve on squash wise, and connect that to the physical capabilities of being able to do that, and do sessions accordingly.

After returning to the court, did it take time for muscle memory to kick in?
It's been better than what I thought it was going to be. I have watched a lot of squash over the last four months or so. I have been visualising a lot of things that I want to get better at. Those things have helped. But of course, I have not started playing with anyone. I've just been doing like, solo. The next step is getting on court with someone and see how the body and mind reacts to that... That's still a mystery because it hasn't happened yet, but hopefully, I will be able to get into it pretty quickly.



Saurav Ghosal

Are you okay to play without a vaccine?
I would not want to but I would have to at some point. I think the vaccine is going to take some time. Until everyone really gets vaccinated, it's probably going to be at some point later next year, which is a long time away. I accept that you cannot eliminate all risk. It's a question of finding the balance where I am okay with the risk minimisation to the level that it is at that point in time. So if you ask me today, do I want to get on a flight? No, I don't. But things change very quickly. So, maybe in two months, things will be slightly better. And I might find myself getting on a flight.

How would you categorise 2020? A year wasted or...?
There is no point in saying that it's a year wasted. Of course, we would have loved to be playing at tournaments. But it's an extreme situation for the world. For me personally, as a player I tried to use this time to the best of my ability to become a better player once I come back. So hopefully that will be the case. And if that is the case, then that time was well utilised.

Pope, Buttler lift England

AGENCIES @ Manchester

OLLIE Pope and Jos Buttler made their first big scores of the series in putting on an unbeaten stand of 136 runs to rebuild England's innings against the West Indies and put the hosts on top on Day 1 of the final test at Old Trafford on Friday.

England recovered from 122-4 just before tea to close on 258-4, with Pope on 91 as he goes in search of his second test century and Buttler on 56. Kemar Roach was the pick of the bowlers for the visitors (2-56 of 18.4 overs).

Brief scores: England 258/4 in 85.4 ovs (Pope 91 n.o, Burns 57, Buttler 56 n.o; Roach 2/56) vs West Indies.

Delhi courts to reopen for practice

AYANTAN CHOWDHURY
@New Delhi

ESTABLISHED players along with kids in the age bracket of 14-18 have been practising at the iconic Delhi Lawn Tennis Association (DLTA) courts at the RK Khanna stadium in New Delhi. The facility was opened up once the government gave the green signal to stadia. It remained closed for the past week to carry out a thorough sanitisation drive and will reopen again in the coming week.

Household names like Karman Kaur Thandi, Riya Bhatia, Sachit Sharma have already come and played there and DLTA has enforced a number of safety measures for all. DLTA Director Col Ranbir Chauhan and head coach Arun Kumar are in-charge of the operation and they try to ensure a safe and sanitised environment for all budding players.

"The government SOP is strictly followed. We have temperature checks at the entrance of the facility and hand sanitisers are placed at various strategic points in the premises including the courts. As mentioned, no doubles training is allowed and players are not allowed to change sides," the DLTA director told this daily.

Out of the 13 courts inside, five are being currently utilised for training with the premises divided into two parts so that administrative officials and players remain separate. A number of marshals have been employed, who keep a check so as to ensure no rules are broken. Currently, players can train in two batches, one in the morning from six to ten and in the afternoon till five. Evening slots have been shut. Kids below the age of ten and senior members have been instructed not to come.

"Currently Delhi-based players are coming in. We had asked UP players as well but nobody has travelled. Our usual schemes and coaching clinics are shut for the time being. Players who wish to train can book their slots in advance. We used this period of seven days to undergo another round of thorough sanitisation and we plan to keep doing this in order to keep our courts clean and open for practice," Chauhan added.

EXPRESS READ

Anand loses third straight match

CHENNAI: Indian ace Viswanathan Anand struggled for the third consecutive round, losing to Russia's Vladimir Kramnik to languish at the bottom of the points table in the $150,000 Legends of Chess online meet. Anand lost 0.5-2.5. Anand lost the opening game despite some brilliant play as his Kramnik fought back strongly.

Former state athlete passes away

BENGALURU: Former state athlete, Beatrice Bandara Hedge, took her last breath in the city on Wednesday. She was 70. The athlete, who died following a brief illnes, featured for state in 100m, 200m, javelin throw. She also clinched a bronze medal in the Open Nationals in Ludhiana in 1973. She was born in Sri Lanka.

KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of India Undertaking)

OPEN E-TENDER (SINGLE PACKET SYSTEM) INVITATION NOTICE

Name of Work: Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Power, Control Cabling and LED Lighting Arrangement in Place of Existing System Inside Tunnels in the State of Goa and Karnataka under Karwar Region of KRCL. **Notice No: KR/CO/EL/KAWR/T/7/20 Date: 25/07/2020. Completion Period:** Three Months. **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 1,71,79,384/- excluding GST. **EMD:** ₹ 2,36,000/-. **Last Date & Time for Online Submission of Tender :** 14/08/2020 up to 15.00 Hrs. **Opening of Tender :** On 14/08/2020 at 15.30 Hrs. Amendments / Corrigendum if any, would be uploaded on IREPS website only. **Submission of Tender Documents :** Through IREPS. Manual Tender Documents shall not be accepted.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(PROJECT ORGANISATION)
E-TENDER NOTICE No. T-SG-Proj-2020-07-OT dated 23.07.2020
For and on behalf of The President of India, The Deputy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Project, Tiruchchirappalli - 620 001 invites E-Tender for the following works.

Tender Notice: T/SG/Proj/2020/07 (OT) dated: 23.07.2020

Name of Work: TPJ Division - Signalling arrangements in connection with Interlocking of LC gates (23 No's) in TJ-MV,MV-KKDI, TJ-KIK, VM-TPJ sections

Sl. No.	Cash Value (Approx)	Earnest Money Deposit	Cost of Tender Documents	Last Date for Receipt of Tender	Completion Period
1	₹ 5,36,81,926.36	₹ 4,18,400/-	₹ 11,200/-	17.08.2020	11 months

Note: The detailed terms and conditions and other details have been uploaded in the website **(www.ireps.gov.in)**
DY. CHIEF SIGNAL &TELECOMMUNICATION ENGINEER, (PROJECTS), TIRUCHCHIRAPPALLI- 620 001
Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru
Tender Notification
(Through E-Procurement portal)
Providing Consultancy Services for Obtaining Environmental Clearance CFE for Sites & Services Layout at Munadargi Village, Mundargi Taluk, Gadag District.
- Notification No: KHB/CE/KSPCB/Mundargi/IFT No. 14/ 2020-21, Dt. 23.07.2020
- Last date for submission of bid: **24.08.2020 upto 4.00 PM.**

For more information, contact below mentioned office address:
Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board,
Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. Telephone No. 080-22213511/ 080-22100077. Website: www.karnatakahousing.com https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in
DIPR/DDU/643/2020-21

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited
(A Joint Venture of GoI & GoK)
e-Mail: bmrcl@dataone.in Website: www.bmrc.co.in
No: BMRCL/WHTD&HBGD/M&P-L17 Date: 24.07.2020
CORRIGENDUM-04
The online sale of tender document for **"Design, Manufacture, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Fully Automatic CNC Under-Floor Wheel Lathe and Electric Shunter for Whitefield and Hebbagodi Depots of BMRCL Phase-II Project"** is extended up to **midnight of 20.08.2020.** The date of pre-bid meeting is revised to **27.08.2020.** The date of submission of tender is revised to **19.09.2020 from 11.00 Hrs. (IST) to 15.00 Hrs. (IST).** Date of tender opening is revised to **19.09.2020 at 15.30 Hrs (IST).** For further details visit our website: **www.bmrc.co.in**
Sd/- Managing Director

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Electrical Division, Bangalore-560 001
The Executive Engineer PWD Electrical Division, Bangalore invites **Short tender from The tenderer as a Prime Contractor having valid Class-I and Above Electrical License issued by Electrical Inspectorate Govt. of Karnataka and should have suitable technical, financial & managerial capabilities for Providing main tenance to electrical installation of Switches, Sockets, Modular plates, Modular PVC Boxes, LED Tubes, T5 Tubes, Chocks, Drivers, Fan capacitors, Geysers coils, Thermostats, A,B,C & D-Blocks Staff Quarters, CSO, ADC, OSD Office, Raja Bhavan front and rare gate, and Labour charges for attending the complaints(24/7) at Rajabhavan, Bengaluru (10 Months) for the year 2020-21 KPWD/2020-21/EL/WORK_INDENT124475** Tender's **First Call** for Amount **Rs.17.60 Lakhs.** As per KW-1, STD Condi tions. The details may be seen and Downloaded at website: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.** Downloading from **dt: 21-07-2020 to 31-07-2020** up to 16:00 Hours. Submitted online in e-Procurement Portal on **31-07-2020 before 16:00 Hours.** Further details contact under signed office at working Hours.
Sd/- **Executive Engineer (Ele)**
PWD Electrical Division, Bangalore-01

Executive Engineer, Public Works, Ports Inland & Water Transport Department, No.2 Building Division Bengaluru, 1st Floor, PWD Annexure Building, K.R. Circle, Bengaluru-01.
Ph: 080-22122856
No.: EE/No.2 Divn/AE.8/T.No-10/2020-21 Date: 22.07.2020
SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
Executive Engineer, No2 Buildings Division Bengaluru on behalf of Governor of Karnataka has invited item rate tender consisting of single cover and two cover system from Registered in PWD, eligible tenderer for the work noted below as per the Karnataka transparency in Public procurement act-2000 KW-3 rules, through Karnataka Government e-Procurement portal. The cost of tender processing amount is mentioned in e-Portal.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Amount put to tender in Rs.	EMD Amount in Rs.
1	Renovation and reconstruction of Horticulture office building located in the premises of Nursery Division, Cubbon Park, Bengaluru. (KPWD/2019-20/ RD/WORK_INDENT119553)	57,96,969.14	1,15,940.00 (a) e-Proc Rs.50,000/- (b) F.D., B.G., N.S.C. etc. Rs.65,940/-)

Period of completion (including rainy season): **6 Months.** Class of Contractor: **Class-III and above. (1)** Tender documents may be donwloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka from Date: **22.07.2020 to 30.07.2020. (2)** Tenders must be submitted online through e-Procurement portal on **30.07.2020 before 4.30 p.m. (3)** The tenders will be opened through e-Procurement on **03.08.2020 at 4.30 p.m.** For further information please visit the website **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** and also from this office during office hours.
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
No.2 Buildings, Division, Bengaluru.
DIPR/BU/622/MCA/2020-21

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT, CHENNAI-600008
E-Tender Notice for the supply of stores No. 29/2020 dated. 23-07-2020
Southern Railway has implemented an e-system. All advertised tenders will be dealt through e-procurement system only. No manual offer/postal offer will be entertained. These tenders can be accessed under the link **www.ireps.gov.in-->SR-->COS**

Sl. No	E-Tender No.	Description	Tender Closing date & time
1	82/20/5071/OT	PVC Cable 3 C X 10 sq.mm	27/08/2020 @ 14.30 Hrs

Railway reserves the right to issue any corrigendum to the tenders.
Important Notice to Vendors: e-procurement is in the link **www.ireps.gov.in**
PRINCIPAL CHIEF MATERIALS MANAGER
Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

राजस्थान स्टेट सीड्स कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड
तृतीय मंजिल, पंत कृषि भवन, जनपथ-जयपुर
CIN : U75132RJ1978SGC001781, Website :www.rajseeds.rajasthan.gov.in, Ph.: (0141) 5106516
क्रमांक एफ 3 ( )/विपणन/2020/10814 दिनांक : 23.07.2020
अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रित करने हेतु ई–निविदा सूचना
राजस्थान स्टेट सीड्स कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड की विभिन्न इकाईयों पर आवश्यक श्रमिक एवं परिवहन कार्यों हेतु वर्ष 2020-21 एवं 2021-22 ई-निविदा के माध्यम से क्रमशः ई-निविदा क्रमांक 10812 दिनांक 23.07.2020 एवं ई-निविदा क्रमांक 10813 दिनांक 23.07.2020 द्वारा ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। यह ई-निविदायें केवल www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in के माध्यम से ही आमंत्रित की जाती है। विस्तृत ई-निविदा सूचना एवं ई-निविदा प्रपत्र ई-निविदा पोर्टल www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखे एवं डाउनलोड किये जा सकते है। इस प्रकार ई-निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड करने एवं भरे हुए ई-निविदा प्रपत्र को अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि दिनांक 30.07.2020 अपराह्न 2.00 बजे तक है।
Labour UBN :- SDS2021SLRC00017
Transport UBN :- SDS2021SLRC00016
Samwad/C/2598/2020-21
(जसवंत सिंह)
प्रबन्ध निदेशक
DIN 08383856

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKET COMMITTEE, MANDYA
Tender Add NO.A.P.M.C.(M)/266/2020-21 Dt:22.07.2020
INVITATION FOR TENDER (UNDER E-PROCUREMENT ONLY)
Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Mandya invites tender in two covers from eligible Contractors for the work of Construction of Providing 03 Nos. Development Package Works at Main Market Yard of A.P.M.C.Mandya, Approved under 2020-21 Annual Action Plan., in as per **"STANDARD TENDER DOCUMENTS (KW4), Clause 3" (with latest amendments).** The amount put to the tender is **Rs.1,22,62,319=44** only. The tenderers may submit tenders through e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka viz: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in/eprotal/index.seam.** The tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in the instruction to tender to qualify for the award of the contact and go through the general conditions for eligible tenderers and technical qualification criteria given in the E-Portal. **CALENDER OF EVENTS:-** (1) Pre bid meeting : **Date:28.08.2020 : 11.30 AM.** (2) Last date & time for receiving technical and financial bid : **Date 01.09.2020 : 05.30 PM.** (3) Date & time for opening Technical bid : **Date 04.09.2020 : 11.00 AM.** (4) Date & time for opening Financial bid : **Date 07.09.2020 : 11.30 AM** Or If the next day. **Note:-** EMD details, Period of completion and tender processing fees as per e-portal. If required necessary information can be obtained from the office of the APMC MANDYA, during office hours or through the **phone no.08232/220792.**
Sd/-(M. Nanjundaswamy) SECRETARY, A.P.M.C., MANDYA. **Sd/-(Y.K.Prema) CHAIRMAN, A.P.M.C., MANDYA.**
DIPR/AD/MDY/MCA/ 233/2020-21

NESCO UTILITY
Head Office: Januganj, Balasore-756019
Email-purchase@nescoodisha.com
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Tender Notice No. NESCO Utility/ Elephant Corridor / 09/19-20/ 5703 Dt: 24.07.20
For and on behalf of NESCO Utility, Sealed tenders are invited in duplicate in two part bidding system from eligible bidders, who comply with the terms & conditions and specification laid down in the tender documents for **"Execution of various electrical works of Infrastructure development in Elephant Corridor "** on Turnkey basis to avoid electrocution of Elephants inside Elephant Corridor in Keonjhar District of Odisha.
Last date of submission of Bid : Dt 17.08.20 up to 3.00 PM, Date of opening of Bid: **Dt.17.08.20 at 3.30 PM.** For details please visit our website-**www.nescoodisha.com.** Corrigendum/Addendum/Information if any will be published in the website only.
Sd/- General Manager (C&MM)

City Corporation Office, Davanagere.
No.: DCC:EE2:E.Tender:09:2020-21 Date: 23.07.2020
Short-Term Tender Notice
(Through e-Procurement Portal)
Tender is invited in single/double cover system through e-procurement portal for 08 works – 14th Finance Commission General Performance Grant for the year 2017-18, 01 work – 14th Finance Commission General Basic Grant for the year 2019-20 (2nd Call), 01 work – S.F.C. Open Fund 24.10% for the year 2019-20, 01 work – Palike General Fund 5% for the year 2018-19 (2nd Call) – Total 11 works and eligible contractors/ agencies/ suppliers can participate through e-procurement portal website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in for the tender. Further details can be obtained in website of City Corporation Office www.davanagerecity.mrc.gov.in and from e-procurement helpline phone no.: +91 80 46010000, +91 80 22631200. Last date and time for obtaining information regarding the tender: 10.08.2020, 16.30 hrs. Last date and time for submission of tender: 10.08.2020, 17.00 hrs. Date and time of opening tender/ technical bid: 12.08.2020, 11.00 hrs. Date and time of opening financial bid (double cover): 12.08.2020, 11.00 hrs.
ಪಾಸಾ/ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ/211/ ಎಂಸಿಎ/2020-21
Sd/- Commissioner, City Corporation, Davanagere.

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(Wholly Owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement)
Bid Enquiry No: SEE/EEO/AEEO/TKR/GK/TTK/20-21/ Enq-004 & 005, Date: 24-07-2020. **Particulars:** Execution of Providing Electrical infrastructure works for Arranging Power Supply to the proposed Ganga Kalyana IP Sets on Total Turnkey under Percentage Rate Contract Basis in Kyatasandra Sub Division Jurisdiction of Tumkur Division, BESCOM and Huliyurdurga Sub Division Jurisdiction of Kunigal Division, BESCOM. Bid documents available from: **27-07-2020 to 11-08-2020 upto 16:00 hrs.** Last date for receipt of Bid document: **11-08-2020 upto 16:00 Hrs.** Opening of Technical Bid: **13-08-2020, 11:00 Hrs.** The bid documents can be downloaded through e-procurement portal from the **website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.** Aspiring bidders need to register on e-procurement portal. Further bidders can take assistance with procurement help desk at **080-25501216 and 080-25501227.**
Sd/-, Superintending Engineer (Elec.)
C, O & M Circle, BESCOM, Tumakuru.
For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

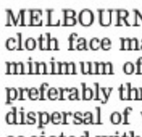
In a study led by the Royal Observatory of Belgium and conducted in 117 countries, researchers have found that the world is experiencing the most dramatic reduction in the seismic noise (the hum of vibrations in the planet's crust) in recorded history due to global Covid-19 lockdowns.

Home-made face masks require two layers: Study

BLOCKING DROPLETS

MELBOURNE: Home-made cloth face masks may need a minimum of two layers, and preferably three, to prevent the dispersal of viral droplets associated with Covid-19, according to a study.

Researchers, including those from the University of New South Wales, noted that viral droplets are generated by those infected with the novel coronavirus when they cough, sneeze, or speak.



In the current study, published in the journal *Thorax*, researchers compared the effectiveness of single and double-layer cloth face coverings with a surgical face mask at reducing droplet spread. They said the single layer covering was made from a folded piece of cotton T shirt and hair ties and the double layer covering was made using the sew method described by the US CDC.

The scientists used a tailored LED lighting system and a high-speed camera to film the dispersal of airborne droplets produced by a healthy person with no respiratory infection, during speaking, coughing, and sneezing while wearing each type of mask.

Their analysis showed that the surgical face mask was the most effective at reducing airborne droplet dispersal, although even a single layer cloth face covering reduced the droplet spread from speaking.

But the study noted that a double layer covering was better than a single layer in reducing the droplet spread from coughing and sneezing.

IS SUCH A JOURNEY POSSIBLE

Such a voyage is possible has been demonstrated by a present-day cousin, Australia's saltwater crocodile, which satellite tracking has shown can travel 500 kms in about a month while passively transported by ocean current

Prior to this discovery it was unclear whether crocodiles reached the Americas from Africa, via a hypothesised transatlantic voyage or vice-versa

Researchers speculate that they may have descended from a single pregnant specimen that bobbed along Atlantic Ocean currents to the New World at least five million years ago, probably longer

This is a really exciting discovery. It supports the results of molecular biologists that proposed the origin of American crocodiles had to be found in Africa

Massimo Delfino from the University of Turin and Dawid Iurino from Sapienza University, lead authors

10 CENTIMETRE

1939

A skull fragment of Crocodylus checchiai — an ancient croc species — was unearthed from the Libyan desert

EXFILE

'Out of Africa' theory for America's crocodiles

The several species of crocodiles plying rivers and brackish byways in the Americas — from Florida to Peru — all came from Africa, according to a new study published in the journal *Scientific Reports* this week. We take a look

CT IMAGING

Researchers used CT-scans and 3D-modelling to re-examine the skull of stored at the Earth Sciences museum in Rome

CLOSE RELATIONSHIP

This shared skeletal structure indicates a close evolutionary relationship between C checchiai and American crocodiles

IMPORTANT FINDINGS

C checchiai rewrites the story of how crocodiles spread across the planet in at least two ways:

- It lays to rest the already fading hypothesis that the giant, flesh-ripping reptiles — which first emerged from Asia — arrived in the Americas before moving on to Africa, and not the other way around
- The long-neglected fossil also supplants another contender from Africa — Crocodylus niloticus, aka the Nile crocodile — as the closest forebear of the American species

COMPARISONS WITH LIVING SPECIES

They identified several new skull structures, including a protrusion in the middle of the snout that has not been identified on any other African crocodile species, but that is present on the skulls of the four living American crocodile species: C intermedius, C moreleti, C acutus and C rhombifer

TRUMP'S ANTACID REMEDY FOR COVID-19 FIZZES OUT

Govt granted $21 mn to try it on ailing patients, with a speedy approval from the FDA, despite no published data to suggest its effectiveness

Tablets of Pepcid antacid | AP

DUD DRUG

WASHINGTON: As the coronavirus began its deadly march through the world, two well-respected American doctors identified a possible, but seemingly unlikely remedy: Pepcid, the heartburn medication found on drugstore shelves everywhere.

There were no published data or studies to suggest that famotidine, the active ingredient in Pepcid, would be effective against the novel coronavirus. In early April, when government scientists learned of a proposal to spend millions in federal research funding to study Pepcid, they found it laughable, according to interviews, a whistleblower complaint and internal government records obtained by *The Associated Press*.

But that didn't stop the Trump administration from granting a $21 million emergency contract to researchers trying it out on ailing patients. The Food and Drug Administration gave the clinical trial speedy approval even as a top agency official worried that the proposed daily injections of high doses of famotidine for already sick patients pushed safety "to the limits," internal government emails show.

That contract is now under scrutiny after a government whistleblower accused a senior administration official of rushing the deal through without the scientific oversight necessary for such a large federal award. And the doctors who initially promoted the Pepcid idea are locked in a battle for credit and sniping over allegations of scientific misconduct.

Meantime, the trial itself is on pause due to a shortage of hospitalised Covid-19 patients in New York, delaying it indefinitely. A vaccine or effective treatment could be available before the study is complete.

The Pepcid project has underscored what critics describe as the Trump administration's casual disregard for science and anti-corruption rules that are meant to guard against taxpayer dollars going to political cronies or to fund projects that aren't rigorously designed.

"The evidence used to support the trial is extremely weak," said Dr Steven Nissen, a Cleveland Clinic cardiologist who has been a frequent adviser to the FDA. "And I've been very critical of this approach to the Covid-19 epidemic, which I've likened to throwing spaghetti at the wall and seeing what sticks. I consider trials like this one to be largely a waste of time and money when they're very unlikely to show positive results."

PRAYER CALLS

Men perform their Friday prayers outside the Byzantine-era Hagia Sophia in Istanbul, the first Muslim prayer after a gap of 86 years at the landmark since it was reconverted to a mosque despite international condemnation | AFP

France pumps up funds for space force

COSMOS BATTLE

PARIS: France will increase spending on its new Space Force programme by several hundreds of millions of euros as it prepares for potential "unfriendly manoeuvres" among world powers, the country's Defence Minister Florence Parly said on Friday.

"We're gone from a concept of space as a 'common good' in the service of science, to a space where countries are struggling for global supremacy," Parly told the *Provence, a* daily published in Marseille.

Investments in the programme will reach 4.3 billion euros over the 2019-2025 budget period, up from the 3.6 billion euros originally planned.

"In no way are we engaging in an arms race," Parly said, reiterating a stance announced when President Emmanuel Macron unveiled the new space initiative last year.

"But it's my responsibility to make sure we have thoroughly identified the threats our country could face."

"The fact is that satellites can now get close to ours and scramble their signals or damage and even destroy them. Soon we will have small patrol satellites that will allow us to detect and identify those responsible for any unfriendly manoeuvres," she added.

Researchers redesign coronavirus protein in lab, which may aid finding a stable vaccine

IMPROVED VERSION

HOUSTON: Scientists have redesigned a key protein from the novel coronavirus which it uses to enter and infect human cells, an innovation that may lead to much faster and more stable production of vaccines against Covid-19.

According to the researchers, including those from the University of Texas at Austin, most Covid-19 vaccine candidates train the human immune system to recognise a key protein on the surface of the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 called the spike (S) protein to fight infection. In the current study, published in the journal *Science*, the scientists designed a new version of this protein which can be produced up to 10 times more in cells than that of an earlier synthetic S protein already in use in multiple Covid-19 vaccines.

"Depending on the type of vaccine, this improved version of the protein could reduce the size of each dose or speed up vaccine production," said study senior author Jason McLellan from the University of Texas at Austin.

"Either way, it could mean more patients have access to vaccines faster," McLellan said.

The new protein, dubbed HexaPro, is also more stable than the team's earlier version of the S protein, which according to the scientists should make it easier to store and transport.

They said the new S protein also keeps its shape under heat stress, during storage at room temperature, and through multiple freeze-thaws — qualities that are desirable in a robust vaccine.

In the study, the researchers first identified 100 different modifications to the S protein that they believed might lead to a more stable, and a more highly expressed version.

MYANMAR'S FIRST SATELLITE

SUPER CONSTELLATION

Myanmar is preparing to launch its first-ever satellite, joining an unlikely coalition of nascent space nations aiming to protect millions from environmental disasters. The future "super constellation" of micro-satellites from nine Asian countries will track typhoons, seismic activity and water flows, as well as provide data on land use, the growth of crops and disease outbreaks. It is the first space venture for Myanmar, the least economically developed country in a consortium that includes the Philippines, Vietnam and Indonesia. The launch will be overseas, but Myanmar will have its own ground control centre.

Vietnam bans wildlife trade, indefinitely

PANDEMIC IMPACT

HANOI: Vietnam, one of Asia's biggest consumers of wildlife products, has suspended all imports of wild animal species "dead or alive" and vowed to "eliminate" illegal markets across the country. The directive signed by the leader of the Communist country follows an international scandal over the sale of wildlife, which has been blamed as the origin of the coronavirus pandemic in neighbouring China.

It is a major victory for conservation groups who have in the past accused Vietnamese authorities of turning a blind eye to the rampant trade in endangered species inside and across its borders.

"The prime minister orders the suspension of imports of wildlife — dead or alive — their eggs... parts or derivatives," said the order released Thursday on the government website.

"All citizens, especially officials... must not participate in illegal poaching, buying, selling, transporting... of illegal wildlife."

Vietnam locked down swiftly to dodge a major health crisis as Covid-19 emerged, but its economy has been hit hard.

The country will also "resolutely eliminate market and trading sites which trade wildlife illegally", the edict said — warning of a crackdown on the poaching, trafficking, storing and advertising of animals, birds and reptiles.

Anti-trafficking group Freeland hailed the move as the most stringent to control the wildlife trade since the pandemic broke out. "Vietnam is to be congratulated for recognising that Covid-19 and other pandemics are linked to the wildlife trade," said Steven Glaster, its chairman.

China, the world's biggest market for wildlife products, has enacted a similar ban. Vietnam has gone further by taking aim at online sales and imposing an indefinite ban on the trade.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

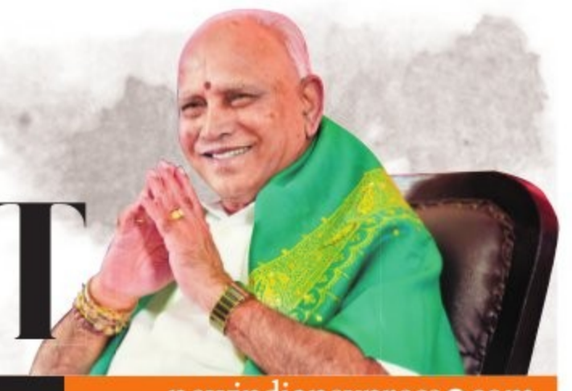
1 YEAR OF REACHING OUT

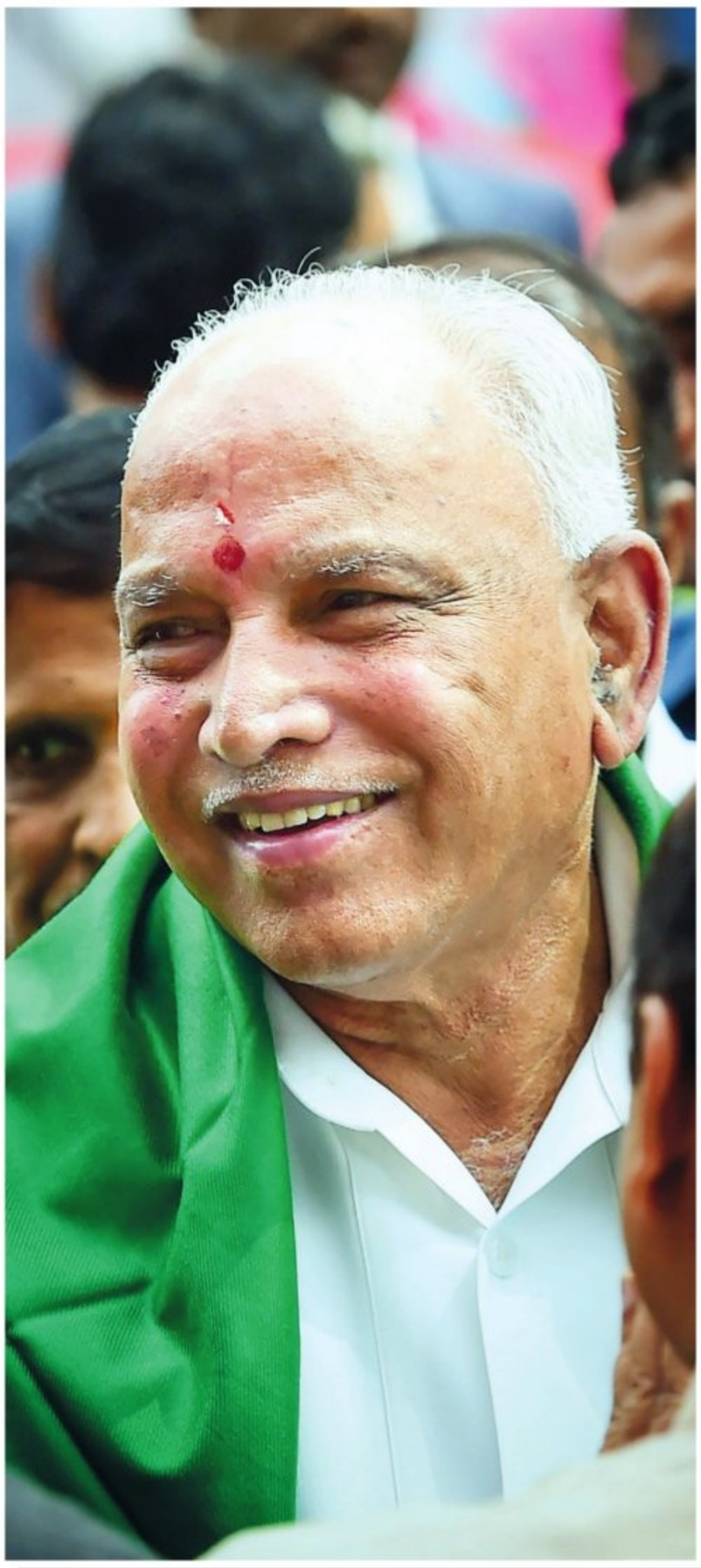
01 Bengaluru | Belagavi | Hubballi | Kalaburagi | Mangaluru | Shivamogga

SATURDAY 25.07.2020

A SPACE MARKETING INITIATIVE

newindianexpress.com





ON THE THRESHOLD OF A NEW BEGINNING

The last one year has been dedicated to the overall development and welfare of the State, and even in these testing times, the potent symbol of his ministry has been focus on purpose, writes **B.S. Yediyurappa, Chief Minister of Karnataka**

As envisioned by me after assuming office of providing food for every mouth, work for every hand and dream for every eye, I have hitherto worked to achieve the same. The year gone by has been tough, but I worked with vigour and confidence. I have sincerely worked towards the overall development and welfare of the State. At the end of one year of my government, the unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic has plagued us; however, the state Government has taken all measures to handle this pandemic in an effective manner.

When I embarked upon this Journey exactly a year ago, the state was ravaged by unprecedented rainfall and floods. The state recorded the highest average rainfall in the last 118 years. 119 taluks out of 25 districts were declared flood prone. I committed myself to completely supervise the relief measures with active support and co-operation from the Central Government. My government took timely action to evacuate people, livestock and provided immediate relief measures to displaced people. My Government took proactive measures to swiftly distribute relief funds in a transparent manner. The Central Government provided a package of Rs 1869 crores. The state Government even with Financial Constraint paid a total of Rs 6108 Crores which exceeded the stipulated amount set in NDRF Guidelines. I personally visited all the districts, reviewed remedial works and gave valuable guidance to relevant authorities.

Since I also come from a farmer family, I can empathise with the community at large. To name a few pro farmer measures which I undertook after becoming CM was waiving farmer loans. Under PM Kisan scheme in Karnataka more than 50 lakh farmers have been benefitted. The financial assistance has been extended to farmers even during floods and also during Covid -19.

When I took over the reins of administration, I had pledged to improve the conditions of farmers, weavers and fishermen. I immediately took a major decision of providing additional Rs 4000/- after declaration of loan waivers for weavers and fishermen. Rs 98.29 crores has been utilised for loan waivers. In addition to the above, the handloom weavers will get Rs 2000 per year.

When I presented the budget, I had kept in mind all the sections of the society and overall development of the state. But now, due to the pandemic, the Government's priorities have changed to provide timely treatment to all people affected by Corona. Despite the downturn in the global economic situation, sincere efforts are being made to maintain economic stability of the State. Various measures have been taken to create a favourable environment for overall development of all sectors.

To reduce regional imbalances, the office of Human Resource, Agriculture and Cultural Association has been set-up. I strongly believe renaming of Hyderabad-Karnatak region as 'Kalyana Karnataka' is justified if only we are committed to the development of the region. Hence, Rs 500 crore has been earmarked in the budget for the development of the region.

The new name 'Kalyana Karnataka' is a perfect tribute to the rich history of *shiva-sharanas* of 12th century who presided over *Anubhava Mantapa* – the fountainhead of social, religious and philosophical thoughts.

The capital city will get the statue of the historical figure, Kempegowda, the founder of Bengaluru city. On the occasion of his 511th birth anniversary, work has been initiated to build a 108-feet tall statue at Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru. The Rs 78-crore project designed by the Infrastructure Development Corporation (Karnataka) Limited aims to convey history and life of Kempegowda to numerous national and international tourists.

With respect to the industrial sectors, many pro-entrepreneurs measures have been initiated by my Government. The state has chosen to attract investors to upsurge the lean economic environment. I personally attended World Economic Forum conference in Davos, Switzerland and held separate talks with more than 40 globally reputed companies. I persuaded them to invest in Karnataka. The whole team of Karnataka comprising of ministers and officers received a very good response since many companies conveyed their interests to invest in sectors like aerospace, food, shipping and allied sectors.

To give a thrust for industrial development, section 79A and 79B of the Land Acquisition Act have been amended to facilitate smooth transition for purchase of lands by industries. This will also reduce exploitation of farmers since they will also be provided with a good market price for their lands.

In addition, the APMC Act has been amended to allow farmers to sell their produce at competitive prices in the open market. The current government is credited with embracing the theory that 'my crop is my right'. In addition to this labour laws have been amended to allow women to work in night shift.

To improve connectivity and encourage investment Kalaburagi and Bidar airports have been commissioned. The works at Shivamogga Airport has been taken up at brisk pace. To also facilitate small entrepreneurs during trying times I have instructed for fixed charge waiver of electricity bills.

To improve the Human resource and generate a large workforce for the industries, a portal called 'Skill Connect' would be launched. This would help in better end to end connectivity and provide a good opportunity for rural youth to get employed in various industries.

Now with Covid – 19 pandemic infections increasing, my Government is taking all precautions to fight this pandemic on a war footing. To highlight, Karnataka was one of the first states in the country to announce a lockdown. Effective measures were undertaken during lockdown so that the poor and underprivileged do not go hungry. Advanced rations were distributed to those with BPL cards. All the district and taluks hospitals have been set up with high flow oxygen to improve the overall health infrastructure. They will supplement the District administration to provide medical support to all the patients.

A 10100-bed equipped Covid care Centre has been set up at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre to provide timely treatment for patients infected with Covid -19 virus. During the lockdown, a sum of Rs 2272 crores was raised. This would help in providing financial help to workers from the unorganised sector like fruit vegetable vendors, taxi, auto drivers and others.

It's been heartening to know that the economic activities initiated by my Government have been seen as a benchmark by the Central Government for revival of Economy. I have also incorporated a task force Chaired by Chief Secretary to oversee and persuade companies planning to withdraw capital from China to invest in Karnataka.

In tune with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the state Government is striking a balance between life and economy. Therefore, I would like to consider this opportunity of serving the people of Karnataka with new vigor so as to embark on the path of development. As quoted by Kautilya, "We should not fret for what is past, nor should we be anxious about the future; men of discernment deal only with the present moment." This only explains that we should try to handle situations in a strategic manner so as to benefit people at large.

The Beginning Of A Promise

His first stint as Chief Minister lasted all of seven days. The second was cut short before he could complete a full term in office while his third term lasted barely three days. But nothing could stop his determined bid to turn the tables. BS Yediyurappa took oath as Chief Minister of Karnataka on July 26, 2019.

Yediyurappa didn't waste any time after receiving the go-ahead from BJP national president Amit Shah and approached Governor Vajubhai Vala to stake claim to form a government in place of the Congress-JDS coalition which lost the trust vote.

"As instructed by our National President Amit Shah and working president of BJP J.P.Nadda, I have met his Excellency Governor of Karnataka to stake claim to form government"(sic), Yediyurappa had tweeted in his attempt to dispel speculation that he was defying the central leadership and hurrying to form the government despite having barely 106 MLAs on his side — a number much lower than the required simple majority of 112 in the full House of 224 members.

Within hours, at 6 pm, Yediyurappa was sworn in as CM. The rest of the cabinet will now await approval from the party's central leadership.

"Two important decisions have been taken in the first cabinet. It has been decided that two instalments of Rs 2,000 each shall be paid to beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Yojana as part of the state's contribution. Also, loans availed by weavers, totalling up to Rs 100 crore, shall be waived immediately," Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa said soon after his first cabinet meeting.

Reiterating that his priority will remain farmers, fishermen and weavers, Yediyurappa said he will look into details of the farm loan waiver scheme implemented under HD Kumaraswamy's Chief Ministership and make further announcements.

> *Two important decisions have been taken in the first cabinet. It has been decided that two instalments of Rs 2,000 each shall be paid to beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Yojana as part of the state's contribution. Also, loans availed by weavers, totalling up to Rs 100 crore, shall be waived immediately.*
>
> - B.S. Yediyurappa

When Tempest Tossed, Embrace Strategy

As soon as Yediyurappa took over as Chief Minister, he had to stare at the challenge of floods in the state. By August of 2019, parts of the state were reeling under floods and torrential rains.

After a marathon video conference meeting with District Commissioners of flood-affected districts, Yediyurappa hopped on a chopper and undertook an aerial survey.

The survey was conducted in Yadgir, Raichur, Bagalkot and Vijayapura districts.

Yediyurappa also wrote to his counterpart in Maharashtra Devendra Fadnavis, appealing to regulate the discharge of water. Specifically pointing out to the large quantity of water being released by Koyna dam to Krishna River, without regulations, Yediyurappa, in a letter dated August 4, requested for a regulated release of water in a phased manner to stop severe damage to crop, cattle, property and lives. He also appealed to Fadnavis to keep the state government informed about any release of water into Karnataka.

In the backdrop of unprecedented floods in western Maharashtra, Karnataka also agreed to release five lakh cusecs water from Almatti dam to help affected people in Kolhapur and Sangli districts.

Balanced Tackling of the Pandemic

Due to the increasing rate of infection of Covid-19, the State Government quickly announced a lockdown. Action was taken to ensure the safety of students by closing schools and colleges.

Karnataka was one of the first States in the country to announce a lockdown. In addition, effective implementation of lockdown was made, to better control the infection. During this period, care was taken so as not to let the poor go hungry. Advance rations were distributed to those with a BPL card.

All District and Taluk hospitals have been set up with high flow oxygen to improve health systems, and will be ready to provide support by August 15.

The number of cases is increasing rapidly after the unlocking process, but timely treatment of infected people is helping to increase the survival rate.

Despite the downturn in the global economic situation in 2019-20, efforts have been made to maintain the economic stability of the State in spite of floods and COVID-19. Steps have been taken to create a favourable environment for the development of Industries. There is also a great deal of caution in tax collection.

The Chief Minister presented the budget for the overall development of the State, but the Government's priorities have changed since the COVID-19 pandemic, which has plagued mankind globally.

More on Page 4

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

1 YEAR OF REACHING OUT

TWELVE MONTHS...

Yediyurappa knows Karnataka well. Its strength and its weaknesses. Prioritising areas which he had been monitoring since the time he plunged into active politics, he is a man on a mission to ensure that most concerns are addressed in the best suited manner. Here are a few of them:

1 August 16, 2019: CM Yediyurappa meets PM Modi, seeks Rs 10,000 crore fund

Yediyurappa met Narendra Modi in the national capital and briefed on the extensive damage caused by the heavy monsoon rains and floods. In a detailed report submitted to Modi, Yediyurappa said the state government has sought Rs 10,000 crore relief funds from the Centre to rebuild houses, buildings, roads, highways, schools, state-run hospitals that were damaged in the 22 of the state's 30 districts.

2 September 6, 2019: Kalyana Karnataka

The Karnataka Cabinet decided to rename the Hyderabad-Karnataka region as Kalyana Karnataka. The Government hoped to achieve comprehensive development by eliminating regional inequality. Karnataka has gained special status under Article 371 (j) of the Constitution.

3 October 12, 2019: State Budget Approved

On the last day of the three-day winter session , the state budget with an outlay of Rs 2.4 lakh crore for the year 2019-20 was approved in both the Houses. A supplementary estimate of close to Rs 8,000 crore was approved to take up for flood-relief works. With supplementary estimate of Rs 7,927 crore, the outlay increased from Rs 2.34 lakh crore to Rs 2.407 lakh crore.

4 November 2, 2019: Yediyurappa completes 100 days in office

The first 100 days of his chief ministership was focussed on fighting floods and drought in several districts of the state. Yediyurappa's next big challenge was the bypolls on December 5. "I will start visiting the constituencies, as well as the flood and drought-hit areas," the CM had said, and added that the state's financial position and tax collection were good, and will improve. He also expressed confidence in getting more funds from the Centre for flood relief and development works.

"The best comes out of you when you face challenges. In fact, of the seven Sundays that have passed till September 9, I have been on my feet on six weekends. Visits to flood-hit areas, meeting with officials kept me busy. Besides, I gave time to Bengaluru residents, keenly listened to their grievances, and also reviewed infrastructure projects," he had said.

5 November 15, 2019: Revival of Yeshasvini Health Insurance Scheme Promised

Yediyurappa promised the revival of the Yeshasvini Health Insurance Scheme for farmers in Tumakuru. Then-CM SM Krishna had announced this first-of-its-kind initiative. Under this scheme, a family of five will get health insurance of up to Rs 2 lakh per annum, for which they have to pay a premium of Rs 700.

6 22 November 2019: Kalaburagi Airport Inaugurated

Yediyurappa inaugurated the newly-constructed Kalaburagi airport which will now connect Bengaluru with the Hyderabad-Karnataka region. The 3.25 km runway laid at Kalaburagi Airport is the second-longest in Karnataka after Bengaluru Airport. With Kalaburagi airport beginning its operations, northeast Karnataka region is set to have air connectivity to Bengaluru and the rest of India under the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik)-Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS).

7 December 9, 2019: Bypoll Victory

Yediyurappa firmed up a majority in the Karnataka Assembly with a victory in 12 out of 15 constituencies that went to bypolls. A triumphant Yediyurappa said that the victory has brought big responsibility on the party.

8 December 20, 2019: On CAA

In the wake of the protests that erupted across the state against Citizenship Amendment Act, Yediyurappa closely monitored the law and order situation. He appealed to protesters to maintain peace.

INDUSTRIAL SECTOR

The state has chosen to attract investors and thereby maintain the economic stability of the State, despite the dire circumstances such as floods, the Covid-19 pandemic and the global recession. At the World Economic Forum conference in Davos, Switzerland, the Chief Minister held separate talks with more than 40 globally reputed companies and persuaded them to invest in the State. Many companies are interested in investing in aerospace, food, shipping and other sectors.

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. MANY RESOLVES

9 **January 2, 2020: PM-KISAN Fund Release**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release the third installment of PM-KISAN (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi) for the months December 2019 - March 2020 in Karnataka.

11 **January 22-23, 2020: In Davos**

Yediyurappa was in Davos to push for investments for Karnataka. On Day 1, his pitch was for farm growth. The CM made a fervent appeal to investors to base their investments and industries in Karnataka keeping in view of the interests of farmers and to create more jobs.

Major investors met the CM. Among them were representatives of Dassault Systemes, Arcelor Mittal, Bharat Forge, Lockheed Martin, Lulu Group and pharmaceutical major NovoNordisk.

12 **February 5, 2020: Launched Citizen-centric Online Services**

Yediyurappa launched various citizen-centric online services, including a web portal, where one can apply to various government departments seeking information under Right to Information. The CM also launched 'Karnataka At a Glance' report along with data on socio-economic, geographic and education. The report has as many as 19 indices including geography, population, rain, horticulture, banks, agriculture market, transport, health, women and child welfare and power. It has also details like literacy rate, children out of schools, self-help groups, drinking water and toilets. This will give a clear picture on districts that have amenities lesser than the guidelines.

13 **February 9, 2020: Civil Enclave at Bidar Airport**

The civil enclave at Bidar airport was inaugurated. The CM said "Bidar has been taken closer to Bengaluru with the launching of a slew of facilities".

14 **February 10, 2020: Interest Waived off**

Yediyurappa said that the state government has decided to waive off interest on mid-term and long-term loans borrowed from Cooperative Societies and Primary Agriculture land Development banks in the state.

15 **6 May 2020: Scheme for Weavers**

A new scheme was announced to provide assistance to weavers. Also, under the Rs 1610 crore package, farmers cultivating flowers, during the lockdown period, will be paid of Rs 25,000 per hectare with a cap of one hectare.

10 **January 10, 2020: Sapthapadi Launched**

Yediyurappa launched 'Sapthapadi', a mass marriage programme in Bengaluru. The state authorities will provide a *mangalsutra* worth Rs 40,000 and Rs 5,000 to the groom. They will also give Rs 10,000 to the bride after marriage. Yediyurappa also confirmed that the government will help communities like Muslim and Christians to organise mass marriage as per their respective rituals.

16 **March 5, 2020: State Budget Presented**

Yediyurappa presented the 2020-21 Budget for the state, and reiterated his government's commitment to overall development of Bengaluru by setting aside over Rs 8,700 crore for development of the capital city. "For the year 2020-21, a total amount of Rs 55,732 crore is provided for stimulating economic growth sector", the Chief Minister said and added that a new industrial policy would be implemented. He also announced a "Child Budget" and Green Index was made an integral aspect of formulating policies and guidelines to ensure climate change is tackled in a better manner. Karnataka is the first state to bring in such a concept.

17 **June 8, 2020: Tap Connections to all Rural Households**

In the year 2020-21, 23.57 lakh rural households will benefit from new functional tap connectivity at an estimated cost of Rs. 8984.52 Crore. The project aims to provide water supply to all rural households by 2023 under the Housing Project to improve rural living.

18 **July 14, 2020: Removing restrictions on non-agriculturists land purchase**

The Karnataka Cabinet gave in-principle approval for further amendments, doubling the ceiling on land holdings and removing restrictions on non-agriculturists purchasing agriculture lands. The cabinet had earlier taken a decision to repeal sections 79-A (prohibition on acquisition of land by certain persons), 79-B (prohibition on holding agricultural land by certain persons), 79-C (penalty for failure to furnish declaration) and Section 80 (transfer to non-agriculturists barred).

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Right from being the first to initiate complete lockdown to adopting the 5T strategy (Trace, Track, Test, Treat, Technology), Karnataka Government has been tirelessly working on ways to curb the pandemic

BATTLING COVID

March 12-14, 2020

Karnataka reported the country's first COVID-19 death from Kalaburagi. Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa said that measures will be taken immediately to set up laboratories in every district to test suspected new coronavirus samples. The government will also set aside 10 beds in every government hospital for suspected COVID-19 cases, he said. Health minister B Sriramulu said the government is taking all precautions.

March 13, 2020

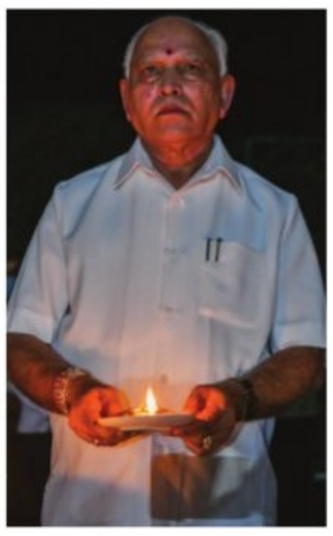
On March 13, the government ordered the closure of malls, theatres, multiplexes, clubs and pubs and other commercial establishments where people gather in large numbers for a week. The government also declared a holiday for colleges and universities. Karnataka was the first State to conduct a survey of 1.5 families in the state to identify and care for those suffering from other health problems, pregnant women, the elderly and children. When the lockdown was announced in order to control Covid-19, Rs. 2272 Crore was raised. The package was to provide relief to workers from the unorganised sector.

March 18, 2020

Yediyurappa called an emergency cabinet meeting to discuss the coronavirus outbreak and indicated the lockdown in the state will continue till March 31.

March 21, 2020

The state government sought clearance from the Centre to set up laboratories at Mangaluru, Ballari and Hubballi to conduct tests for COVID-19.



Health Minister B Sriramulu with Dr. K. Sudhakar, Minister of Medical Education of Karnataka

April 11, 2020

Yediyurappa said the lockdown in place will be extended for two more weeks and the Centre will issue guidelines regarding its implementation in a couple of days.

May 11, 2020

All those who arrive from outside Karnataka to be compulsorily quarantined for 14 days before they are allowed to go home.

July 5, 2020

The CM delegated responsibility of overseeing Covid care centres (CCC) to Deputy CM Dr C N Ashwanthnarayan while Revenue Minister R Ashok along with CM's political secretary Vishwanath, were to coordinate with private hospitals. Medical Education Minister Dr K Sudhakar continued to focus on the Coronavirus policy and briefing the media.

July 11, 2020

With a big rise in COVID-19 cases, the State government reimposed total lockdown in Bengaluru Urban and Bengaluru Rural districts for seven days from 8 pm on July 14 till 5 am on July 22.

The Government has formulated detailed plan and implemented control measures to curb the spread of COVID-19 infection in the state. 1,52,310 Air travellers were screened from March 8 2020 to July 9, 2020 at Air ports. The state established 568 fever clinics and 13,74,369 persons were examined in these clinics. 64447 persons were kept under surveillance. 779209 throat swabs were examined and 31105 persons were detected to be COVID -19 positive. Arrangement were made to treat all COVID -19 patients at all Government Hospitals, 114 Private Hospitals and Medical colleges. Covid Care Centres, dedicated Covid Health Centres and Covid Hospitals were established with adequate beds for treatment of Covid-19 patients.

APRIL 9, 2020

"We are fully prepared to handle any eventuality. We have a stock of 2,82,934 N95 masks and we have ordered another 10,000. The central government will also supply masks. We have ordered 10 lakh PPEs (Personal Protection Equipment) for healthcare professionals. Of these, 2,10,245 have been supplied and now we have stock of 78,245. We are expecting more supplies within the next two-three days. We have ordered 1,574 ventilators and have 24, and are expecting another 26 in the next three-four days. We have 50 ventilators now. We have 2,500 to 3,000 beds in Bengaluru and 150-200 beds in all districts. We have notified 17 exclusive COVID-19 hospitals in the state. Of them, seven are in Bengaluru."

- B. S. Yediyurappa

Initiatives of Health & Family Welfare Department (2019-2020)

In order to monitor the attendance of staff of Health & Family Welfare Department and improve the service provision to the public, Biometric Attendance System was initiated from October 2019.

There were vacancies of 1500 Doctors post for many years. The Government has approved to fill up 1246 General Duty Officers by direct recruitment. Approval was also given to fill up 824 specialist post and 88 Dental Health Officer Posts.

Under Ayushman Bharath Arogya Karnataka Scheme, 588701 Beneficiaries were treated at a cost of Rs. 950.97 Crores from July 26, 2019. Under this Scheme, 452 Private Hospitals and 2807 Government Hospitals were empanelled and 56,32,841 persons were issued Health Cards.

Under Organ transplant scheme, for the first time, Heart Transplant Surgery was done in the State. To Benefit BPL families, under this scheme, the Government is giving Rs. 3 lakh for Kidney Transplantation Rs.7 lakh for Heart Transplantation and Rs. 12 lakhs for Liver Transplantation. Rs. 1.03 crore has been Sanctioned to 19 patients under this scheme.

Under Universal Immunisation Programme, the Chief Minister inaugurated Rota Virus Vaccination Programme in August 2019. This Vaccine is given to infants of 6 weeks, 10 weeks and 14 weeks of age.

Intensified Indradhanush Programme 2.0 was held in the 1st week of December, January, February and March and all pregnant woman and 0-2 year children were immunised.

'BALIKA' Online Software was developed for real time monitoring of registration, renewal of Ultra Sound scanning centres and Ultra sound scanning tests, under PCPNDT programme.

Directions were issued to all District Health & Family Welfare Officers to appoint Junior Lab Technicians and Pharmacist post on contract basis.

Action has been initiated through special Recruitment Committee to fill up the vacant Para Medical Posts of 981 staff nurses; this selection process has been completed and final list for appointment of 889 staff nurses will be announced.

Under National free diagnostic services programme of NHM, the Department will provide free Diagnostic Services like CT scan, MRI, X-ray, Ultrasound Scanning, Blood and Urine investigations. This Programme will be implemented in a stage wise manner.

The State stands at second place in India in implementation of Telemedicine Programme. E-Sanjivini Software programme which has been provided by the Government of India.

The Government has increased monthly fixed remuneration of Asha workers from Rs. 3,500 to Rs. 4,000 per month from November 2019.

Free treatment is being provided to patients suffering from blood related disease like Haemophilia at all district hospitals of the State. Free Iron chelating Drugs and free Blood Transfusions are being provided to the patients suffering from sickle cell

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DAY'S DIARY

Album release

David Bowie's plastic soul-funk hit *Fame*, a biting cautionary tale about success and excess in the entertainment business was released on this day in 1975

THE ARTIST

David Bowie was an English rock star known for dramatic musical transformations, including his character Ziggy Stardust. He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1996

RECORDING FAME

He co-wrote *Fame* with Carlos Alomar and John Lennon, which became his first American No.1 single. The album was recorded in Greenwich Village, at Electric Lady Studios on West 8th Street

AWARDS

He was a 2006 recipient of the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2004, Rolling Stone ranked him 39th on the list of the 100 greatest artists of all time, and 23rd on their list of the best singers of all time

French Biryani Review: Comedy in times of malady

PG 4

KINDLING KINDNESS

Working 24/7, NGOs are emerging as Covid warriors, reaching out to the affected with hope, relief and compassion

A worker from Shrimad Rajchandra Love and Care gives food packets to the needy

Vidya Iyengar

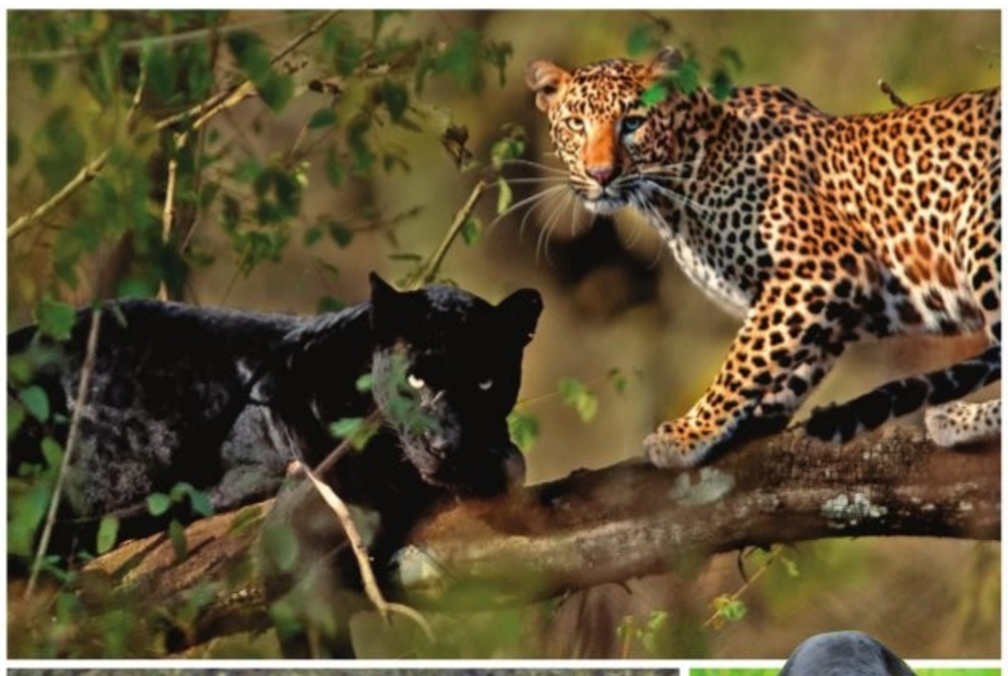
Even as the pandemic has left many struggling, help has also been pouring in from different quarters. Not allowing those without food and income to be weighed down by the situation, NGOs in the city have taken on the mammoth task of keeping the needy afloat. Despite the fear over the handling of Covid-19 patients who have passed on, Mercy Mission under its Mercy Angels wing took upon the task of giving those who succumbed a dignified send-off. An ambulance team transports the deceased from the hospital to the crematorium or cemetery free of charge, and follows protocols, including rituals such as not washing the body, which is followed by some communities. The brainchild of Dr Taha Maseen, managing trustee of HBS Hospital, Shivajinagar, and Mohammed Ummer from Project Smile, the others who have all been involved are socially-conscious and came on board by virtue of being friends.

"When we met just a day before the lockdown, we anticipated various situations, especially looking at the way things were panning out in Italy and other countries. The wing started in March-end to help in different spheres – food, medicines, blood bank, migrants, protection and healthcare," says Mohammed Ali Shariff, core member of Mercy Mission. The group includes about 30 NGOs, like Humane Touch, Lifeline Foundation, United Foundation and Swabhiman, who joined hands to help out during the Covid-19 situation.

Bengaluru-based Vimochana is also claiming the bodies of those who succumbed to the virus for a final farewell according to the patient's faith. It costs ₹450 per body but donations towards this are few. Other NGOs like Shrimad Rajchandra Love and Care in Basaveshwar Nagar have been providing home-cooked meals for frontline workers. The initiative started when they were approached by a government hospital while supplying food to migrants in June (they served 22.83 lakh meals across India, and 1.8 lakh in Bengaluru during lockdown). Since then, over 16,000 meals have been served from their Covid Cloud kitchen to medical professionals and patients at hospitals. **Hemanshu Desai**, deputy leader, says, "We've also started daily evening group meditation sessions for frontline workers."

With art and artists having been hit, city-based Anita Reddy, founder and managing trustee of Dwaraka, has been helping Kalamkari artists in Srikalahasti in Chittoor district. Providing material and support to over 500 of them over the last couple of months, she is encouraging them to continue their work despite reduction in sales. "For the first two months we helped with rations from donations. But we must equip artists to be self reliant," says Reddy.

Mercy Angels volunteers lay to rest a Covid patient



Photographs of Saya and Cleopatra clicked by Mithun H

SPOTS AND SHADOWS

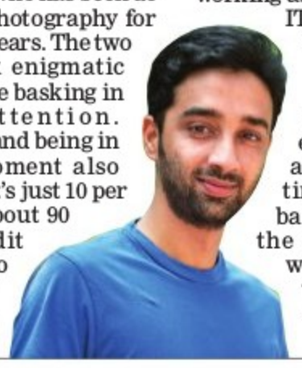
Monika Monalisa

Just days after taking the internet by storm, Saya, the rare black panther from Kabini, is making waves online again. This time, however, he's sharing the spotlight with another big cat, named Cleopatra. The picture of Saya standing behind Cleopatra as the leopard's shadow has gone viral, and has garnered more than 60,000 likes on Instagram. And behind the lens is Bengaluru boy **Mithun H**, who calls the unique moment captured by him a once in a lifetime opportunity.

The picture has reached tinsel town too with many celebrities like actor Nimrat Kaur and director Homi Adajania expressing their awe by sharing the image on their social media feed too. Speaking about the picture which he named The Eternal Couple, Mithun, whose phone has not stopped buzzing, says it took tracking for six days in Kabini Forest Reserve to capture this moment. "Saya and Cleopatra have been courting for the last four years. For that particular camp in the winter of February 2019, we all knew where they were because we could hear them. When we finally spotted them together, it was a sight to behold," says Mithun, who clicked this image with a Nikon D5. The 31-year-old wildlife photographer who captured the image while previously working for National Geographic's project – *The Real Black Panther* – says, "I clicked this image while working on that project but didn't post it earlier since it would have been a spoiler. This is my personal click, which still stays close to my heart."

The photographer has been following the life of Cleopatra since 2010 and Saya since 2014. "Cleopatra was just a cub when we sighted her and now she has seven cubs, with her last batch of litter coming after mating with Saya. Everyone was curious about how the cubs would look but they had normal leopard prints and are equally gorgeous," says Mithun, who has been doing wildlife photography for the last 10-12 years. The two big cats look enigmatic and seem to be basking in all the attention. "Positioning and being in the right moment also count but that's just 10 per cent of it. About 90 per cent credit goes to Cleo and Saya. They look so ethereal together," says Mithun, whose love for wild came at a very young age. Thanks to pictures of Saya going viral, melanistic leopards are getting a lot of attention at this point, to which he says, "It was high time. They are an ignored animal in the conservation list."

Having spent his childhood in Dandeli, where his father was posted as a forest officer, Mithun knew going back to wild was his true calling. After studying engineering and working as a consultant in an IT company, Mithun took up wildlife photography full-time. Once the lockdown was eased, he did manage to spend some time in Kabini. Now back in Bengaluru, the shutterbug can't wait for the situation to get back to normal.



'Sports entrepreneurship, education should be encouraged'

BENGALURU BEATS

Bengaluru conjures the image of a city with good weather, green spaces, and opportunities in information technology and hospitality. What also comes to mind is a city inundated with challenges posed by inadequate infrastructure, pollution, traffic and water shortage.

The solutions, though obvious, might not be easy to implement without the will of government and society. We need to build proper roads and drains, incentivise use of public transport, and implement proper town planning. The work of the civic authorities needs to be lauded and not just criticised, though red tapism can reduce a concerted effort. People complain about the traffic without realising that they are the traffic. Those who don't follow rules should be penalised monetarily as well as in terms of other disciplinary measures if need be.

Bengaluru is already a destination for education and medicine. It's my dream to see the city as a sports hub. It already has Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy and Anup Sridhar Badminton Academy, which attract talent from all over India, alongside Bengaluru Football Club.

Vijay Lancy
Badminton player, founder-CEO, The Badminton Professionals

Sports entrepreneurship should be encouraged, with easier access to capital and tax holidays. Sports lovers who could not continue playing would like to pursue sports management. New sports institutes will also open multiple job opportunities. Bengaluru hosts top corporates, whose involvement in sports can boost new initiatives.

Solution: In light of the pandemic, stress on cleanliness is key. Bengaluru should strive to be fit by participating in sports with the plethora of infrastructure available. At the grass root level, sports should be made compulsory in schools.

Let your mixed feelings about Bengaluru get stirred up, as an influential person talks about things nice and nasty about the city in this weekly column

Strokes of healing

Monika Monalisa

The one thing artist **V Ramesh** is missing the most is human touch. And to meet that craving, the painter is going to have a virtual art camp on Saturday. Organised by Reves Art Gallery', Jayanagar, the camp is titled 'The Prolonged Solitude'. "This camp is an attempt to explore how society and art come together when distanced from the distractions of our normal lives," says Rajini Rekha, an artist and owner of Reves Art Gallery.

Although not a fan of conducting a virtual camp, Ramesh agrees it is the need of the hour. Since it is the only way for him to reach out to people, especially Bengalureans, he does not mind exploring the option. The city holds a special place in the heart of this Visakhapatnam-based artist. Recalling his first exhibition in Bengaluru, which happened in 2014, he says, "I had an exhibition at National Gallery of Modern Arts. I was pleasantly surprised to see so many art lovers."

The 68-year-old has spent most of the time during the lockdown catching up with books. "I am not an artist who will take anything happening around me as an inspiration," says Ramesh, who is popularly known as Painters of Poets, since many of his works are inspired by poetry and music.

The art camp will be held on July 25, 4pm onwards on Zoom. Details available on website.

COVID CARE
DOs & DONT's
Try to reach out to older persons and people with pre-existing mental health conditions
Follow your kids' vaccination schedule
Eat moderate amounts of fat and avoid processed meats because they are high in fat and salt
Use cleaning wipes, disinfectants, or soaps on fruits and vegetables
Jog or exercise outdoors directly behind someone else
Shun people if they have tested, or are suspected to be, Covid-positive

'Like'wise: Back to social media and selfies

Express Features

Divya Spandana aka **Ramya** has been inundated with messages like 'Welcome back' and 'Missed you' ever since she reappeared on social media last week. The actor-politician returned on the virtual platform with a message posted on Instagram, which said, "It's been a little over a year since my last post and just as I began to engage slowly with pictures of trees, birds, books and my dogs I was inundated with 'post a selfie, haven't seen you in ages'. So I thought why not- and I failed miserably. Posing in front of a camera seems so alien to me. I gave up after a few attempts, tried to get my dogs in the selfie too cos I was feeling awkward & uncomfortable just by myself (I have noted this observation & I shall mull over it) and so I decided to post some selfies from before and this is what selfies look like on my phone! I can confirm this seems to be my resting face... (SIC)."

This has not only brought in cheer among her fans, but also set off speculations, including whether the actor, who has also been away from politics for almost a year, will make a comeback to films.

Ramya led the social media campaign of Congress party till September last year. She has since last week put up a few more posts. Interestingly, Rakshitha, a colleague and competitor, has also started following her. Ramya last appeared on the big screen in *Nagarahavu* in 2016.

MORINGA KEERAI THORAN

INGREDIENTS

- **Moringa leaves:** 200 g
- **Moong dal:** 50 g
- **Grated coconut:** 2 tbsp
- **Salt:** To taste
- **Turmeric:** a pinch
- **Red chili:** 1
- **Coconut oil:** 2 tsp
- **For seasoning:** Mustard, split urad dal and curry leaves.

METHOD

- Separate the moringa leaves from its twigs and wash them.
- In a pan, add the washed moong dal and leaves. Add salt and turmeric.
- Cook it with just enough water for five to 10 minutes. Add fresh coconut when done.
- Temper with mustard seeds, red chilli, split urad dal and curry leaves.
- Serve with rice.

– Uma Murali, Coimbatore

QUICK FIX

What's cooking IN YOUR KITCHEN DURING THIS LOCKDOWN?

We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at cityexpresschn@gmail.com.

SPACE WATCH

HUBBLE SPOTS FEATHERED SPIRAL

The Hubble Space Telescope captured a galaxy called NGC 2775, 67 million light-years from Earth. The galaxy has young stars and a bulge in the centre that is wide open. The spiral pattern shown by the galaxy in this image from the NASA/ESA Hubble Space Telescope is striking because of its delicate, feathery nature. These "flocculent" spiral arms indicate that the recent history of star formation of the galaxy, known as NGC 2775, has been relatively quiet. There is virtually no star formation in the central part of the galaxy, which is dominated by an unusually large and relatively empty galactic bulge, where all the gas was converted into stars long ago. NGC 2275 is classified as a flocculent (or fluffy-looking) spiral galaxy, located in the constellation of Cancer. Millions of bright, young, blue stars shine in the complex, feather-like spiral arms, interlaced with dark lanes of dust. Complexes of these hot, blue stars are thought to trigger star formation in nearby gas clouds. The overall feather-like spiral patterns of the arms are then formed by shearing of the gas clouds as the galaxy rotates. The spiral nature of flocculent galaxies stands in contrast to the grand-design spirals, which have prominent, well defined-spiral arms.

Source: nasa.gov

BRIGHT SPOT

WINNING HEARTS & A HOME

Earlier this month, a woman in Kerala was filmed running after a bus to flag it down. After stopping the bus and requesting the conductor to wait, she walked back a few feet and helped a visually impaired man board it. Unbeknown to her, an onlooker filmed her good deed and shared it on social media – where the video won millions of hearts. Now, Supriya has been rewarded for her random act of kindness. Supriya has been working at a textile shop, Jolly Silks in the town of Thiruvalla for three years. She was waiting outside the store recently when she saw the elderly man and rushed to his aid. Her good deed reached the ears of Joy Alukkas, chairman of Joyalukkas Group, who visited her rented accommodation to congratulate her. Alukkas told Supriya to visit the head office in Thrissur for a surprise, which turned out to be a new house in her name. Needless to say, she was moved to tears by this gesture.

Source: NDTV.com

APPSMART

Periscope

Periscope lets you broadcast and explore the world through live video. See where news is breaking, visit a new place, or meet people and share interest, all in real-time.
Available on: Android & iOS

Tango

Tango is an interactive live-streaming platform for instant communication and new friends.
Available on: Android & iOS

Chingari

Your hot new stage to set the world on fire with your talent. Be creative with WhatsApp status, videos, audio clips, Gif stickers and photos.
Available on: Android

SOUND BOARD

SERIAL
Serial is an investigative journalism podcast hosted by Sarah Koenig, narrating a nonfiction story over multiple episodes. The series was co-created and is co-produced by Koenig and Julie Snyder and developed by This American Life.
- On Google Podcast

SHORT STORIES IN TAMIL
Deepan takes the listener, especially the little ones, through inspiring short stories of everyday lives. The simple choice of words and relevant topics make this podcast an engaging one.
- On Apple Podcast

WHAT IF WORLD
What if trees go to school? What if cars could talk? This podcast is for parents who get hard-hitting questions from their kids. It comes with a vivid and imaginative narrative.
- Download from Google Play for free

SPILLED MILK
If you're a food lover, then this one's for you. The podcast from writer-cum-comedians Molly Wizenberg and Matthew Amster-Burton has the pair ruminating on a particular food delicacy laced with humour and anecdotes.
- On Apple Podcast

AMAZING WILDLIFE
This educational series highlights the wonders and diversity of the animal kingdom. The episodes also feature fun and insightful facts about the world's most fantastic animals. - On Apple Podcast

POPULAR ON YOUTUBE

CHAKRAVARTHY
Shankar, a humble youth from Madikeri heads out to Bengaluru in search of job. His life changes drastically once he steps up to become an underworld gangster.
- Cast: Darshan, Kumar Bangarappa, Aryan

RAAM
Ram earns his uncle's wrath when he helps his cousin get married to her lover. On another occasion, he ends up kidnapping the wrong bride in order to help a friend. But, a surprise awaits him.
- Cast: Puneeth Rajkumar, Priyamani

ISHTAKAMYA
Doctor Aakarsh, who is separated from his wife, Adithi, falls in love with another girl, Acchari. He is caught in a fix when his estranged wife comes back.
- Cast: Vijay Suriya, Mayuri Kyatari, Kavya Shetty

KADHALAN
Prabhu, a student leader, falls in love with the Governor's daughter, Shruti, while on a visit to his residence. However, he soon finds himself embroiled in a terrorist plot and tries to thwart it.
- Cast: Prabhu Deva, Nagma, Vadivelu

Scan this QR code to find out how your favourite celebs are coping with the lockdown.

WHAT'S ON TED TALKS

1 WHAT CAN DNA TESTS REALLY TELL US ABOUT OUR ANCESTRY?
BY PROSANTA CHAKRABARTY
Two sisters take the same DNA test. The results show that one sister is 10% French, the other 0%. Both sisters share the same two parents, and therefore the same set of ancestors. Prosanta Chakrabarty explores the accuracy of DNA tests.

2 WHERE DO NEW WORDS COME FROM?
BY MARCEL DANESI
There are over 1,70,000 words currently in use in the English language. Yet every year, about a thousand new words are added to the Oxford English Dictionary. Where do they come from, and how do they make it into our everyday lives? Marcel Danesi explains how new words enter a language.

3 THE IMPORTANCE OF A BREAKDOWN
BY THE SCHOOL OF LIFE
Having a nervous breakdown could seem like the ultimate calamity. Far from it. The School of Life explains how, handled correctly, it can be a unique opportunity to learn, and to get properly well.

4 VULTURES: THE ACID-PUKING, PLAGUE-BUSTING HEROES OF THE ECOSYSTEM BY KENNY COOGAN
With a stomach of steel that can digest diseased meat and waste, vultures are essential to removing dangerous pathogens from ecosystems. Kenny Coogan explores the importance of the desert's cleanup crew.

5 A COMPREHENSIVE, NEIGHBOURHOOD-BASED RESPONSE TO COVID-19
BY KWAME OWUSU-KESSE
Kwame Owusu-Kesse describes how the Harlem Children's Zone is taking a more holistic approach to the pandemic, weaving together a network of services to help communities recover and rebuild.

FIT BIT

KAKASANA
(CROW POSE)

Kakasana translated to 'crow pose'. Concentrating on balancing helps the mind focus on the present moment and prepares one for meditation. The pose also stimulates various chakras namely solar plexus, third eye, crown, throat and root. One of the most valuable balancing poses, Kakasana is easy to achieve, though it may look advanced. The secret is to lean forward and keep your mind from wandering, focusing your attention solely on keeping your balance.

STEPS

- Stand in Tadasana, relaxing arms on your sides and your feet hip width apart.
- Squat slowly. Keep your feet as close as you can. Open your thighs so they're just a bit wider than your body. If you find your heels lifting off the floor you can fold the mat and place underneath them.
- Push your body forward slightly while placing your upper arms along the inside of your knees and palms in prayer form. This is the Malasana pose. Rest for a minute.
- Slowly place your hands on the mat, keeping the palms down at shoulder distance. Push slightly into your hands, with the weight evenly distributed across both.
- Push your shins up against the back of your arms and slowly pull your knees into your underarms.
- While leaning forward, lift the balls of your feet. Keeping your back rounded, pull in your stomach muscles. Your lower back and tailbone should be tucked in to position towards the heels.
- Find a focal point between your hands on the floor – in front of you or slightly ahead.
- While inhaling, lean forward a bit, lift both your feet off the floor and pull your heels in toward your bottom.
- Retaining the breath, balance your upper body and legs on the back of the upper arms. If possible, touch the big toes together.
- Exhale and hold the pose for three or four deep breaths or for a minute before releasing back into Malasana.

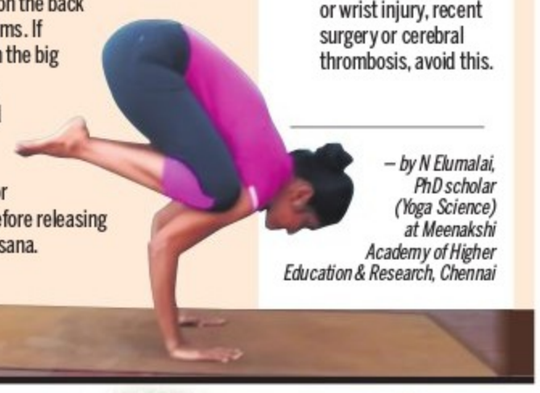
BENEFITS

- Strengthens the shoulders, arms and wrists.
- Improves balance.
- Stretches the muscles of the forearms, wrists and fingers.
- Especially beneficial for repetitive stress injuries like carpal tunnel syndrome, and for people who spend a lot of time on the computer.
- Improves mental equilibrium and brings a sense of calm.
- Improves concentration
- Increases breathing capacity by expanding the chest.

LIMITATIONS

- If you are pregnant or have any conditions like heart problems, carpal tunnel syndrome, shoulder or wrist injury, recent surgery or cerebral thrombosis, avoid this.

– by N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai



NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

FRENCH BIRIYANI (Kannada)
Simon, a representative of a drug company from France and Asgar, a local auto driver from Shivajinagar, share a two-day long journey in Bengaluru. That twisted journey with comedy of errors changes the way they look at life.
- Cast: Danish Sait, Disha Madan, Sal Yusuf
- Watch on: Amazon Prime
- Registration: ₹ 129 per month

AAMI
(Malayalam)
Kamala, a devout admirer of Lord Krishna, gets married to a man who is 20 years older than her. She later goes on to become a famous writer but struggles to deal with relationships and her identity.
- Cast: Tovino Thomas, Manju Warrier
- Watch on: Zee5
- Registration: ₹ 99 per month

FACE2FACE (Kannada)
Santosh and Preethi love each other, but a strange incident happens in Preethi's life and changes the lives of everyone around her. The story enfolds Santosh's struggle to get her love back. Things take interesting twists and turns as Santosh struggles to solve the mysteries of their lives.
- Cast: Rohit Bhanuprakash, Divya Uruduga, Purvi Joshi
- Watch on: Amazon Prime
- Registration: ₹ 129 per month

RASBHARI (Hindi, series)
New English teacher Shanu causes a stir when one of her students, Nand, falls in love with her.
- Cast: Swara Bhaskar, Ayushman Saxena, Neelu Kohli
- Watch on: Amazon Prime
- Registration: ₹ 129 per month

PREMACHI GOSHTA
(Marathi)
Ram and Sonal grow close to each others since they are unhappy in their respective marriages. However, just when the two are about to confess their feelings, their spouses re-enter their lives.
- Cast: Sagarika Ghatge, Atul Kulkrani, Satish Rajwade
- Watch on: Amazon Prime
- Registration: ₹ 129 per month

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

NISABDHAM (Tamil)
A couple leads a content life with their daughter in Bengaluru. However, when the daughter is sexually assaulted by an inebriated stranger, the couple sets out to seek justice for her.
- Cast: Abhinaya, Kishore, Baby Sathanya
- Watch on: Zee5
- Registration: ₹ 99 per month

DORASANI (Telugu)
An impoverished young man and a wealthy landlord's daughter must decide if their blossoming love is worth fighting a repressive social hierarchy.
- Cast: Anand Deverakonda, Shivathmika Rajashekar, Saranya Pradeep
- Watch on: Netflix
- Registration: ₹ 199 per month

ENGLISH/FOREIGN

THE KISSING BOOTH 2 (English)
After a romantic summer together, Noah is off to Harvard, and Elle heads back to high school for her senior year.
- Cast: Joey King, Joel Courtney, Jacob Elrodi
- Watch on: Netflix
- Registration: ₹ 199 per month

GEMINI MAN (English)
Henry is an ageing assassin who finds himself being chased by someone with the ability to predict his moves. He soon discovers that the person is his clone and sets out to discover his origin.
- Cast: Will Smith, Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Clive Owen
- Watch on: Amazon Prime
- Registration: ₹ 129 per month

BATTLE FOR INCHEON: OPERATION CHROMITE
(English, Korean)
American General Douglas MacArthur sends eight members of the Korean Liaison Office, led by a South Korean Navy Lieutenant on a secret mission far behind North Korean lines to carry out Operation X-ray.
- Cast: Liam Neeson, Lee Jung-jae, Lee Beom-soo, Jin Se-yeon
- Watch on: Amazon Prime
- Registration: ₹ 129 per month

INVICTUS
(English)
Following the aftermath of the apartheid, President Nelson Mandela decides to unite his people by supporting a rugby team in their bid to win the 1995 Rugby World Cup.
- Cast: Morgan Freeman, Matt Damon, Marguerite Wheatley
- Watch on: Netflix
- Registration: ₹ 199 per month

DAY OF ARDENT WORSHIP TO THE SERPENT

Naga Panchami or Nag Puja in India dates back to 3,000 BCE since the time of Indus Valley Civilization

Naga Panchami is an important festivals for women who traditionally worship ant hills and make idols of snake gods. These idols are worshipped by pouring milk on this day and offering Aarti to Naga Devate in Karnataka.

There are several folktales and songs penned for this festival. In Mahabharata, one of the ancient epics of India, the king Janamejaya performs a yagna to destroy the entire race of Nagas. This was to avenge the death of his father, King Parikshit, who fell victim to the deadly bite of the snake Takshaka. However, the famous sage Astika, went on a quest to stop Janamajeya from performing the Yagna and save the sacrifice of snakes. The day this sacrifice was stopped was Shukla Paksha Panchmi, which is now celebrated as Nag Panchami throughout India.

Snakes or Nagas play a significant role in several Hindu scriptures and epics. Books like Mahabharata, Narada Purana, Skanda Purana, and Ramayana have several stories associated with snakes. Another story is associated with Lord Krishna and the serpent Kaliya where Krishna fights with Kaliya at the Yamuna River and finally forgives Kaliya with the promise not to bother the humans again. According to Garuda Purana, worshipping snakes on Nag Panchami brings good fate and prosperity to a devotee.

In Karnataka, the preparation for the festival starts on the New Moon day of Bhimana Amavasya, five days prior to the festival day of Panchami. Girls offer prayers to the images made out of white clay painted with white dots. They take a vow by tying a thread dipped in turmeric paste on their right wrist and offer prayers. An image of snake is drawn on the floor in front of the house and milk is offered as oblation. Some also perform Puja to actual cobra, considering it as the sacred and the favourite of Lord Shiva.

Since the Nag Panchami festival comes in the rainy season, the water drives the snakes out of their holes, and hence their visibility gets more frequent than other seasons.

Naga Panchami is usually celebrated for three days. The first day is celebrated as Rotti Panchami wherein people prepare different types of vegetables and salads along with jowar rotti, sajji rotti, masala rice, etc.

Naga Chaturti is celebrated on the second day. Devotees pour milk on ant hills and idols of Naga Devate and perform pooja.

They offer different types of laddoos to Naga Devate. The third day of the festival is Naga Panchami and this day, women perform a special pooja to Ganga by visiting nearest rivers and lakes.

Unfortunately, this year, Naga Panchami has black shades of Corona-19 which has snatched away all joy of festivity. Most people have no option except offering pooja for Naga Devate within their homes. Else, in Bengaluru Shree Mukti Naga Kshetra on Big Banyantree Road, Ramohalli, Kengeri and ISKCON Temple, Hare Krishna Hill, Chord Roadd, Rajajinagar are popular among devotees.

The festival is special for the newly-wed women. Special dishes are made at home to celebrate. Different types of laddoos are the main attraction. Parents gift a saree and bagina to their daughters and new toys to children.

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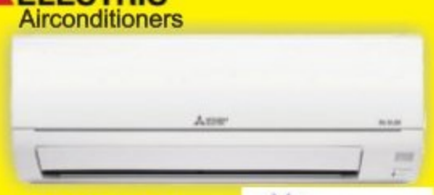
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Sandalwood fraternity meets
Shivanna to discuss status of film industry

CE Features

Members of Kannada film fraternity, including producers, directors, distributors, exhibitors and technicians, met Shivarajkumar at his house on Friday to discuss the crisis that Sandalwod has been facing due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The industry is glad to have Shivanna taking the lead. According to *Salaga* producer KP Srikanth, this gives them a ray of hope, and they hope that his presence will bring back the golden years of Sandalwood. "The first day of the meeting was very fruitful. A lot of topics were discussed, including the shooting of films, and reopening of theatres. However, the whole agenda of the meeting was to discuss the daily wage labourers, and their future. They have been affected the most, and the industry's priority is to provide them essential commodities for the next few months, until the situation improves," says producer Surappa Babu, adding that another few rounds of the meeting will take place over the next two days, after which Shivanna will further discuss the matter with the Chief Minister of Karnataka. Also present at the meeting were producers Jayanna and NS Rajkumar, music director Gurukiran, Karthik Gowda, Umesh Banakar along with members from the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce

Calling it a productive meeting, Gurukiran said, "An agenda is getting planned, and the motive is to help the daily wage workers. With Shivanna coming into the picture, it is going to be a little organised, with everyone coming together under one leadership."

Shivanna also plans to talk to colleagues like Upendra, Darshan, Puneeth Rajkumar and Sudeep, among others, before meeting the CM.

Shivanna and team

Elisabeth Moss to star in thriller film *Shining Girls*

CE Features

Emmy winner Elisabeth Moss is set to star in and executive produce *Shining Girls* for Apple TV+. The thriller is based on Lauren Beukes' 2013 novel of the same name.

The story will follow a Chicago reporter after she faces a brutal assault and tries to hunt down her attacker. Leonardo DiCaprio's Appian Way Productions and MRC Television will also executive produce the film. Silka Luisa will write the film adaptation and act as the showrunner.

Earlier this month, Moss also announced that she is set to star in limited TV series Candy, which is in development at Universal Content Productions (UCP). She will play the role of a notorious killer, Candy Montgomery, in the series.

Moss is also currently part of the Emmy-winning Hulu series The Handmaid's Tale.

Universal in talks for Tom Cruise's space film

CE Features

A few months ago, Tom Cruise announced that he will shoot a film, set to be directed by Doug Liman, in collaboration with the SpaceX program in outer space. Following this, Universal Pictures has approached them to get on board the project, which would become the first feature film to shoot in space, reports Deadline.

Story and cast details of the project, which has been described as an 'action-adventure film', are still unknown. The production might not begin anytime soon as Cruise has two back-to-back Mission: Impossible films in different stages of production. Shooting was suspended for this film due to the coronavirus pandemic in mid-March.

The release of Cruise's upcoming film *Top Gun: Maverick*, the sequel to his 1986 hit *Top Gun*, has also been pushed from December 23 to July 2, 2021

A tasteful treat

Navein Darshan

Long before Iron Man snapped to save the universe, sacrificing his life and Superman got almost killed by Doomsday on screen, 90s kids and those born before them had our very own real-life superheroes in the form of circus performers and acrobats. These heroes performed incredible feats with ease and showed us what true bravery is. Many of us would have probably dreamt of becoming one as kids. It is a pity that the circus troupes which proudly sported titles like 'Royal' and 'Majestic', are all but gone now or forced to beg for an audience. While experts state that we will need magic to bring circuses back to their old glory, *Animal Crackers* is film that does exactly that. A magical animal crackers box has the power to transform the eater into an animal based on the cracker they eat. It's a fascinating idea, and one that has been translated tastefully to the screen with predictable-yet-enjoyable twists.

Director: Scott Christian Sava, Tony Bancroft

Cast: John Krasinski, Emily Blunt, Danny DeVito, Ian McKellan and Sylvester Stallone

RATING 3/5

The husband-wife duo John Krasinski and Emily Blunt, who sent chills down our spine with A Quiet Place, keep us smiling throughout in Animal Crackers and tickle our funny bones every now and then as Owen and Zoe. It is a brilliant idea to cast a real-life couple as their chemistry is a huge boost to the film. Though they only lend their voices to this animated feature, having their avatars modelled after the actors' real appearances adds a special something to the narrative.

Though I was really looking forward to watching Sylvester Stallone's Bullet-Man in action, it was Gilbert Gottfried who stole the show as Mario Zucchini, an overconfident bigmouth who keeps self-praising during the oddest moments. Being the huge Tamil cinema fan that I am, I couldn't refrain from comparing his role to Thiyagu's hilarious 'Adhaamla' Varghis in Enakkoru Magan Pirappan. I also particularly liked the riotous dream song he has with Ian McKellan's Horatio.

While keeping us entertained throughout, the film also reflects the harsh realities of our society and the era we are living in. During a specific scene at the circus, we are shown an unsatisfied smartphone-wielding crowd booing at the acrobats who risk their lives to entertain them. The only one who gets furious at this cruelty and raises a voice against it is a four-year-old girl with a noble soul, uncorrupted by the evil of this fast-moving world. Though this moment lasts only for a couple of seconds, the impact lingers long.

Looking back, I feel the magical animal crackers in the film might also be metaphors to how we humans alter our nature depending on situations — being lions in front of our aides and hares in the presence of our superiors. But interestingly, the lion in Animal Crackers plays electric guitar, the octopus jumps out of a canon, landing with a backflip, and a gorilla does a salsa to make people happy and keep their family together. I guess this is a gentle nudge for us to remember that no matter who we are underneath, it is essential to loosen up and walk that extra mile for our loved ones.

FRENCH BIRIYANI : A COMEDY IN TIMES OF MALADY

A Sharadhaa

Grim times bring grim tales. But once in a while, harsh situations also springs up dollops of laughter, and it is that fresh perspective that *French Biriyani* brings to our homes. Puneeth Rajkumar's PRK Productions comes up with yet another engaging tale, which is charmingly handled by Pannaga Bharana, and flawlessly acted by every single cast member.

Inspired by true events, *French Biriyani* is a laugh riot that bypassed theatres and has released directly on Amazon Prime Video. Taking on the classic trope of mistaken identity, the film has enough comedy tucked in to make it quite an enjoyable ride. Simon (Sal Yusuf), a medical representative from France, who is addressed as Saaman (a commodity in Hindi), lands up in Bengaluru. A cab strike ends up with Simon meeting auto driver Asgar Ali (Danish Sait). Meanwhile, a local goon, Charles aka Powder Charles, instructs his son Muscle Mani (Mahantesh Hiremath) to ask their car driver Suleiman (Pitobash Tripathy) to collect a suitcase from a person by the name Solomon. Unfortunately, Charles dies within minutes of this instruction leaving several loose ends that lead to mayhem and confusion. A suitcase, its contents, people behind it, people caught in the crossfire, and a number of other threads are woven into this film that ultimately unfolds in a simple climax.

Though the crux of the story revolves around Asgar and Simon, there are a lot of other layers added to this comedy. There are gags about a foreigner's first impression of our country, the struggles of inter-religion marriages, the inefficiency of cops, the pressures on media persons for delivering 'breaking news', and a lot more. With Danish as his trump card, Pannaga Bharana has expertly extracted the best from his cast that includes names like Rangayana Raghu, who plays a senior cop, and Disha Madan, a reporter.

The director must also be credited for giving a realistic touch to this comedy-drama despite having an outlandish narrative style. Whether it is costumes, the backdrop, or the dialect, he has maintained ingenuity. The fact that most of his cosmopolitan characters are allowed to speak in their languages and dialects adds to the uniqueness of French Biriyani.

Danish Sait, who was seen as *Humble Politician Nograj*, and has been the darling of social media because of his comedy sketches that has him do a variety of impressions, is top-notch as Asgar. It is not just the central characters of the film who do a fine job. Every actor in the film, irrespective of the duration of their role, does a commendable job and makes their presence felt.

Plaudits to the dialogue writer Avinash Balekkala for writing some well-directed quips and using the mistaken identity theme to milk humour from misheard pronunciations and wordplay. Cinematographer Kharthik Palani has created the right atmosphere and has gone in line with the film's theme by employing quirky camera moves to keep us in tune with the film's proceedings. Music director Vasuki Vaibhav adds spice with his unique mix of songs – *Charles Hogbita, En Madodu Swamy, Fakrudeen*, and of course the *Bengaluru Song*.

To sum it all up, *French Biriyani* is made with a lot of affection and the end product does seem to quite relishing.

Director: Pannaga Bharana

Cast: Danish Sait, Sal Yusuf, Disha Madan

Producer : PRK Productions – Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar and Gudutt A Talwar

RATING 3/5

FRENCH BIRIYANI

An effective, even if rushed retelling of an important battle

Avinash Ramachandran

If not for cinema, how many sitting halfway across the world from Italy and the USA would know of the Mafia? Thanks largely to cinema, the workings of the Mafia has been fed into our collective conscience. But... what about the cops that walked on the streets of New York trying to keep it safe from their tyranny? *Fear City: New York vs The Mafia*, a three-episode mini-series, stitches together a quick narrative about how the cops and the legal system united to bring the Mafia—the Bonanno, Colombo, Gambino, Genovese and Lucchese families—to its knees.

The true heroes in any story about the Mafia are always those who stand up against them, and *Fear City* tells us such a story in almost 150 minutes. The length feels insufficient when considering the kind of narration employed (archival footage, filmed reconstructions, etc...). Everything seems rushed and we are not given enough time to empathise with the hours put in by New York's finest.

The 'how' of bringing the Mafia down is effectively shown. The planting of bugs to record incriminating conversations. The sifting through endless hours of conversation to find one useful statement. The unending tabs on the notorious, and the relentless pursuit, while keeping a safe distance. The weight of documentation needed to make a case stick. I wish it had made for more compelling viewing though, because the truth is, visuals of people listening to endless hours of conversation isn't exactly television gold. Alas, if only we learned more about these people sacrificing their personal lives. Save for prosecutor Rudolph Giuliani, who would go on to become the Mayor of New York, and part of US President Donald Trump's (a small cameo of a young Trump is seen too) legal team, little is shown about the lives of the other players.

Director: Sam Hobkinson

Cast: Rudy Giuliani, Joe O'Brien, Johnny Alite and Michael Franzese

Streaming on: Netflix

RATING 3/5

FEAR CITY: NEW YORK VS THE MAFIA REVIEW

Too much time is spent in explaining how the Mafia took over New York, and almost no time in humanising the federal agents and lawyers who gave it all to bring peace back to the streets. We hear anecdotes from former Mafia members about the power they wielded, their extortion techniques, the extravagant lives they lived—champagne parties and helicopter tours—and of course, how the law finally caught up with them. "The Mafia showed the dark side of Italian immigration," say some of the federal agents and attorneys on the case, who are Italian immigrants themselves. Such angles are not adequately explored in this mini-series. "I was told women cannot work in organised crime," says FBI agent Charlotte Lang, who was involved in bringing down one of the biggest Mafia families. However, she comes too late into the series to give us any real sense of the challenges she faced as a cop, and a woman.

Nevertheless, the series is still an effective retelling of a group of people who rescued democracy from the throes of anarchy. Towards the end, when one of the bosses is bumped off by his rivals, one of the good guys says, "A strange bond exists between us and the Mafia. Both live by codes of honour and respect. I heard him on the mic for almost 600 hours. He was supposed to be indicted and end up in prison. He was not supposed to be dead."

This line says it all about the decade-long fight to bring criminals to justice, a difficult fight that blurred lines between the personal and the public, between right and wrong. As the end credits roll, we are hit with the understanding that the players and the rules might have changed, but the fight, in a sense, is not over.